

# FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Events in Review	3
Bluebirds have Many Friends	4-5
Mark Your Calendar	6
Photo Essay	7
From the Bookstore	8
Duck Stamps—an Investment in the Future	9
Test Your Knowledge	10
Membership News	11

## Board of Directors

Kathy Woodward  
*President*

Judy Schmidt  
*Vice-President*

Lisa Molinari  
*Secretary*

Laurel Gould  
*Treasurer*

Marcia Rymer

Sue Reed

Neil Borman

Roger Donat

Nancy Schenck

Tom McFadden  
*GSNWR Liaison*

## Friends of Great Swamp Newsletter—Contributors

Neil Borman  
Steve Byland  
Alan B. Cossa  
Roger Donat  
Laurel Gould  
Lisa Molinari  
Nancy Schenck  
Judy Schmidt  
Kathy Woodward

This newsletter  
printed by PSE&G

## What Friends Do...

### TWENTY-TWO VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP REFUGE HOMESTEAD

April 28, 2001 — It was a beautiful spring day at the close of Earth Week 2001. Twenty-two volunteers gathered for the second *annual* homestead cleanup. This year's cleanup took place at the former site of the Hidden Valley Nursery—and *hidden* it is. Home to blue-winged warblers, broad-winged hawks, jack-in-the-pulpit, garter snakes, salamanders, a host of multi-flora rose—and piles and piles of flower pots, sheets of black plastic, and lengths of plastic pipe. The group dispersed quickly and in less than 2 hours had completely filled a 30-cubic yard dumpster with stacks and stacks of pots. By noon, the second dumpster was nearly full and there was not a pot in sight.

There is still work to be done—there are several outbuildings and other debris on-site, but someday this beautiful area will be open to refuge visitors—a little sooner now thanks to the help of 22 volunteers. (continued on page 7)

## What Friends Do...

### VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ✓ 1,548 volunteers
- ✓ 41,507 hours
- ✓ \$444,595 of donated time.

These impressive cumulative statistics (since 1982) are from the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Program, coordinated by Tom McFadden, Outdoor Recreation Planner.

Those volunteer hours really do add up!

Just ask Judy Schmidt, Friends Vice President and long-time Refuge volunteer. Judy was awarded a 500-hour pin and plaque at the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers who reach 100 hours are also recognized each year at the ceremony. (continued on page 10)



Bill Koch, Refuge Manager, Judy Schmidt, dedicated volunteer, Tom McFadden—Volunteer Program Coordinator. Photo: Alan B. Cossa

Volunteers who reach 100 hours are also recognized each year at the ceremony. (continued on page 10)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has arrived in the Swamp! The bluebirds and great blue herons have returned in good numbers, the high bush blueberries are blooming, and each week brings a wave of new and exciting migrants. Standing in the parking lot after a recent Board meeting, we were all captured again by the beauty of Great Swamp and how fortunate we are to have the Refuge as part of our lives.

Our Friends group continues to expand in size and achievements. We now have over 200 membership units. We are staffing the office/bookstore at 148 Pleasant Plains Road each Saturday from 11 to 5. Here we offer a stop on the auto tour route as well as information and souvenirs of the Swamp.

In April, there were many activities in the Swamp.

- ✓ On April 1, we joined other groups to celebrate Great Swamp. We conducted walks every hour and greeted guests at our bookstore.

- ✓ The office was staffed both Saturdays and Sundays in April, with guided walks each Saturday afternoon.
- ✓ Several school groups visited and had tours of the boardwalk.
- ✓ The April 18 evening program and 'Frog Walk' was informative and fun for all, despite the cool weather.

At the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on May 4, 2001, Refuge Manager William Koch presented a plaque of appreciation to the Friends Group in acknowledgement of our efforts on behalf of the Swamp.

In early May we received word from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation of the award of a \$5,000 grant to our group. We will use the funds to replace the telescopes at the heron rookery so visitors can more fully appreciate the activities of the heronry. We will also design and print an interpretive brochure for the boardwalk at the Wildlife Observation Blind off New Vernon Road.



Kathy Woodward accepts Friends Recognition award from Bill Koch. Photo: Alan B. Cossa

We are proud of our accomplishments but with additional help we can continue with these and other projects. The more I am in the Swamp, at different times and doing different things, the more I learn about the Great Swamp.

Come join us and share the magic.

*Kathy Woodward*

## INTERN INTERVIEW

For several months each year, AT&T sponsors a seasonal intern at the Refuge. Helen Johnson, the most recent intern, watched winter turn to spring in Great Swamp NWR this year. As the AT&T-sponsored intern from January through April, she lived on the Refuge and worked on projects to benefit education, protection and data collection.

Helen grew up in nearby Westfield, New Jersey. After high school, her interests led her to the University of Vermont where she majored in Fishery and Wildlife Biology. Following graduation, Helen interned through the Peregrine Fund, first in Kenya, Africa and later at Lake Powell, Arizona. While in Kenya, Helen helped study the African crowned eagle. She also became intrigued with the Maribou stork, a bird similar in habits and environmental adaptations to vultures.

Helen enjoyed returning to New Jersey and working in Great Swamp. She created informational posters about Refuge programs, including wood duck and bluebird box management, purple loosestrife control, and water management and strategies. She also created a Web Page for the Refuge, which should be on the Internet before long.

Helen helped extensively with the annual cleaning and data collection from the wood duck boxes. As wood duck boxes are placed in wet areas, the preferable time for cleanout is when the water is frozen. However, sometimes it's hard to gauge the ice. One day when Helen was working with a staff member, she walked towards a wood duck box and broke through the ice into water which came up to her waist and filled her hip boots. Helen had the Refuge's digital camera in her top pocket and she was determined to keep the camera dry. Attempts to pull herself onto the ice were unsuccessful, so she worked her way to a tree, climbed up and out to safety. When she emptied her boots, she found good-sized tadpoles inside. Helen and the camera were unscathed.

Since completing her internship, Helen has been working for Raptor Trust. Graduate school is in Helen's future, but we know she will take memories of Great Swamp with her wherever she goes.

*Events***APRIL 2001—'DID THE SWAMP THING'**

A damp cold day for the beginning of the Great Swamp Watershed Association coordinated 'Do the Swamp Thing' on April 1st did not dampen spirits as 68 visitors participated in four Friends walks to the retention ponds from the Friends office. Thank you to Pete Axelrod who led all four walks! Other visitors sloshed through the mud to our display table in a tent erected near the Refuge Headquarters. Additional walks were led by Steve and Linda Byland, Judy Schmidt, Laurel Gould and Lisa Molinari on each of the following Saturdays. In conjunction with 'Do the Swamp Thing' the office opened on Sundays. Altogether 279 visitors came by the Friends Office and Bookstore on the weekends during April.

April 18th saw 47 Friends gather for Biologist Mike Horne's early evening Frog Walk and pre-walk presentation. The cool April night reduced frog (and human) activity.

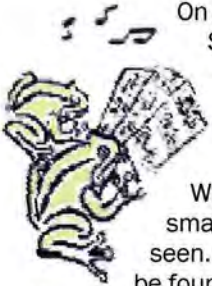
Twenty-two friends under the direction of Refuge Wildlife Biologist Craig Bitler began removing the remains of Hidden Valley Nursery on Saturday morning, April 28th. Two 30-cubic yard dumpsters were nearly filled, one almost exclusively with nested plastic flower pots of various sizes.

Reported sightings during the month were: Birds – 60, among them the familiar Eastern Bluebird, Canada goose, and Red-tailed Hawk, immature Bald Eagle and the Palm, Prairie, Black-and-white, Yellow-rumped, and Yellow Warblers. The bright yellow wildflower, Trout Lily, was in bloom and the small blue butterfly, Spring Azure, was in flight.

Come, enjoy searching for our aerial residents, but as you drive through the Refuge, please don't forget to keep an eye out for our terrestrial residents too.



Friends gather to discuss strategy for Homestead Cleanup!

*Events***FROGS & TOADS**

On April 18th forty-seven people met at the Friends Headquarters for a presentation on frogs of the Great Swamp. An excellent program was hosted by Mike Horne, the Biologist for the Refuge. After a slide presentation demonstrating how to identify the twelve frogs and toads found on the swamp, an audiotape was played to also help us identify the frogs by sound. Then it was time to move outside to the swamp to search them out.

We were allowed into a part of the swamp that is not open to the general public. The Spring Peepers (the smallest frog in the Swamp) were very vocal. Although we could hear hundreds of them, not a one could be seen. The very cold weather kept most of the other frogs and toads deep in the water and reeds and could not be found. When we were almost done for the night, we were able to spot a green frog which is one of the largest frogs we have. If the weather had been warmer, we would have found a lot more. Maybe we can convince Mike to repeat the program when it is warmer!

*Events***BIKES, BIKES ALL OVER THE PLACE**

On Earth Day Saturday April 21 the "Great Swamp Watershed Sightseeing Bike Tour", a 30-mile ride sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission, stopped at the Friends Headquarters for lunch on our deck and a short program given by Paul Steblein, Deputy Refuge Manager, and a welcome by Friends Vice President Judy Schmidt.

*What Friends Do...***BLUEBIRD HOUSE CLEANING**

*How many mice can live in one bluebird house?* The team of Sue Wijdenes, Brenda and Bill Ayres found 14 when housecleaning on February 24.

A group of 29 Friends met at 9:00 am on a cold winter morning to clean the 160 bluebird houses in the management area of Great Swamp. This is a job that would not have been done this year, due to Refuge staff shortages—but that's where Friends come in—to support the goals and projects of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Bernie Tulman, who has been monitoring the bluebird trail at Great Swamp for years, gave the group housecleaning instructions. He then went over trail maps with each of the nine teams that went out into various sections of the management area along Pleasant Plains Road. Two hours later, the houses were clean and everyone was talking mice, hawks, waxwings, and other great finds.

Chris Howey, Jen Smith, Greg Ricci and Steven Sopkowski from the Rider University Wildlife Conservation Club came in second with 10 mice in one house. It was a fun day, with a job well done.

Bluebird House Cleaning Crew: Greg Ricci, Chris Howey, Jen Smith, Steven Sopkowski, Carrie O'Connell, Lorilen Prosser, Jack Higgins, Sue Wijdenes, Bob Brandt, Donna Besignano, Lisa Quatararo, Bill Ayres, Brenda Ayres, Marcia Rymer, Joe Kwiatele, Louis Pisane, Steve Byland, Linda Byland, Louise Stahl, Ted Stahl, Merris Larkin, Lisa Molinari, Kathy Woodward, Carl Woodward, Judy Schmidt, Frank Elby, Sue Reed, Bernie Tulman, Judy Schmidt, Laurel Gould.



Bernie Tulman provides housecleaning instructions to volunteers.

**FRIENDS "MOST WANTED"**

**Please Help a Kid Get Closer to Nature** — Those of us who enjoy observing wildlife take some things for granted. When preparing for an excursion into the outdoors, one of the things we don't leave home without is a good pair of binoculars. They help you get right in close and can facilitate some of the more exciting moments of the trip.

Our Friends group conducts wildlife observation treks year round for people of all ages. We have observed that adults usually arrive sporting a good pair of binoculars. Unfortunately, most of our younger participants have not yet acquired that kind of equipment. As a result, their experience on the tour may be somewhat diminished in terms of luster and excitement.

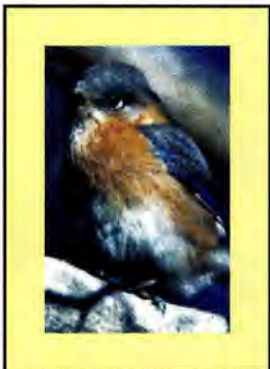
You can help a kid get tuned in and turned on to nature. Chances are that over the years you've upgraded one or more times. Of course you carry your best pair on your field trips while your perfectly serviceable old pair(s) gathers dust on some shelf that your mate is always threatening to clear. Why not donate them to us? You'll have more shelf space. Your mate will be happy. Each time we conduct a tour for young people a child's day will be brightened. Please be sure to include your name and address with your old binoculars so we can acknowledge your donation.

**"Most thanks"**— Thanks to Susan Katz for her contribution of a microwave oven and flatware for the Friends Office in response to our "Most Wanted" from the last newsletter.

**Will you be involved?**

*What Friends Do...***SCORE ONE FOR THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD**

**H**ave you ever seen a Bluebird? Once common in New Jersey, the Eastern Bluebird has suffered greatly from a loss of suitable breeding habitat and ferocious competition for nest sites from birds introduced from Europe.



Even in the best of times, life was hard for the Bluebird. This area was once home to many farms and orchards holding hedgerows, dead trees with woodpecker holes and fenceposts that provided the cavities Bluebirds require for nesting. Still, they had to compete with Tree Swallows, Woodpeckers and many others for nest sites. If they were lucky enough to find a good place to build their nest and raise their young, there were a large number of predators just waiting to take their eggs or chicks right from the nest and more lying in wait to eat the young birds as they fledged or the parents as they searched for the large amount of food necessary to raise their offspring.

As the farms disappeared and the number of suitable cavities decreased, Bluebirds faced an even greater challenge – an increasing number of House Sparrows and Starlings. Introduced from Europe early in the last century, these birds were so aggressive that the more timid Bluebird stood little chance. Eventually, they almost disappeared.

Now there is good news. For the past few decades, places all across the country like the Great Swamp NWR and their neighbor at the Somerset County Environmental Center have managed areas of land to provide suitable habitat as well as nest boxes for Bluebirds. The nest boxes are specially designed to keep out Starlings and frustrate predators. House Sparrows can be controlled to some degree by careful monitoring of the boxes during the nesting season.

Efforts in the Great Swamp NWR, with 160 Bluebird boxes, have been a great success, with over 100 Bluebirds and as many as 450 Tree Swallows being fledged each year. Such success requires much work. Boxes have to be cleaned and maintained regularly and checked once a week from early April through August, when these birds nest. After years of dedicated service, Bernie

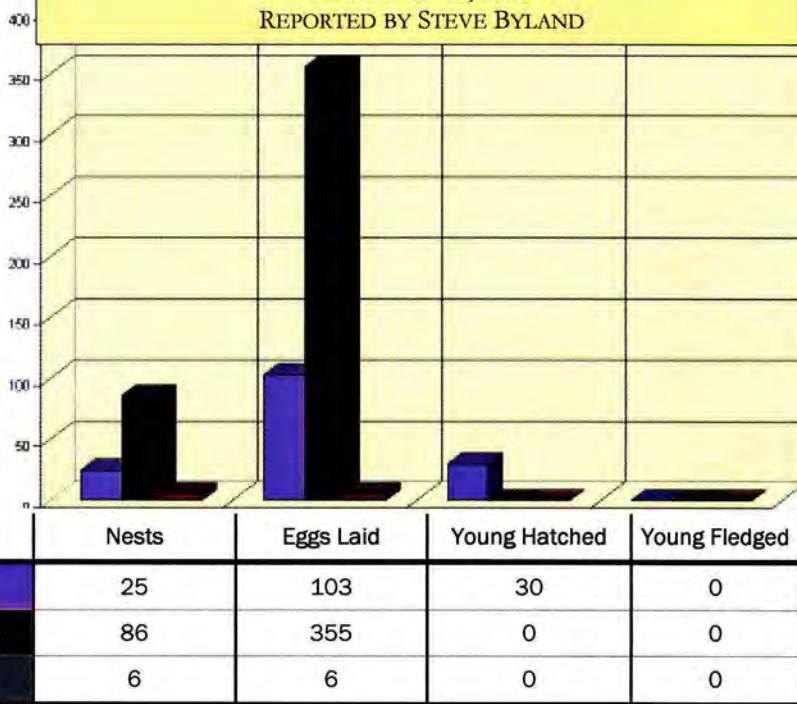
Tulman handed over the responsibility for this effort to me. Assisting me are Louis Pisane of Millington and Leo Hollein of Morris Plains. A small army of volunteers from the Friends of Great Swamp braved the ice and snow in February to help clean out the boxes. Under the watchful eye of the Refuge Staff, including Tom McFadden and Craig Bitler, we'll be out there every week braving the mud, thorns and mosquitoes to try to give this year's crop of Bluebirds a fighting chance.

As you drive down Pleasant Plains Road, watch for the beautifully colored Bluebirds perched on the wires along the road or darting back and forth from their boxes with food for their young. Roll down your window and listen to their sweet, bubbly songs and remember all the hard work that has made it possible to once again enjoy these special birds.

*Steve Byland*  
Warren, NJ

**“BOX SCORES”**

AS OF MAY 16, 2001  
REPORTED BY STEVE BYLAND



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

### Open House



**September 8th – Open House** – We're planning a really big Open House in September – food, fun and the grand re-opening of our Bookstore and Gift Shop. Watch for more information in our next newsletter and on our web site.

**October 14-20 – Sunset Walks** – It will be hard to top a full moon rising over the marsh as the ducks drop in for the night – but we're going to try! Once again the Friends will be leading sunset walks back to the pools in the management area during National Wildlife Refuge Week 2001.



**November 1st – Photo Contest** – Only 5 months left! The second annual photo contest deadline is November 1. Photos must be taken within the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The entry blank is available on our web site ([www.friendsofgreatswamp.org](http://www.friendsofgreatswamp.org)) or stop by the Bookstore for a form. There are three different categories – and winners will receive stunning framed enlargements compliments of The Framery—the custom framing division of Colonial Camera Shop in New Providence. Better get snapping!

**November 24 – Second Annual Turkey Walk** – The first annual Turkey Walk was so much fun, we're having a second. We didn't see any turkeys on our walk into the management area – but, since we were all stuffed anyway, no one cared. Paul Steblein, Deputy Refuge Manager, provided an informative dialog along the way and the red-headed woodpecker was a special treat for all of us.



## Will You Be Ready?



### SWAMP TOURS

No matter what kind of day it is, it's always good to be in the Great Swamp. To share it with someone for the first time makes it a really great day.

When you see Cub Scouts share their first experience in the swamp with a handicapped girl by showing her the turtles. Or take a group of inner-city high school students and let them look at nature with binoculars, or learn more about bluebirds while showing a film to students, it is a most rewarding experience. To date, we have given group guided tours to 170 people. Weekend and special walks were given to approximately 200 people. These include a turkey walk, a frog walk, and also guided walks on weekends during the month of April.

### Join Us as a Tour Guide

If you have a little spare time and would enjoy sharing the Swamp with others, please join us as a tour guide. This is an opportunity to do something satisfying, get a better understanding of what Great Swamp is all about, go into the management area, and most of all – have fun. Let us know you are interested, and we will provide the free instructional training!

### Register your group for a tour

If, on the other hand, you have a group you would like to introduce to the many wonders of the Swamp, call and make arrangements for a tour.

Contact the Friends Voice mail at 908.797.7200 and leave a message for Judy.



Before—piles and piles and piles of pots!



Before—not just one—but two 30 cubic yard dumpsters waiting to be filled...



During—How many pots can be carried at once? Lisa and Steve join in the pot-stacking competitions!

## Homestead Cleanup Volunteers

Bill Ayres  
 Lisa Molinari  
 Laurel Gould  
 Judy Schmidt  
 Bob Thompson  
 Neil Borman  
 Cathy Borman  
 Steve Byland  
 Linda Byland  
 Sibeli Bitler  
 Jack Higgins  
 Louis Pisane  
 Merris Larkin  
 Bob Kastner  
 Stacie Even  
 Oliver Young  
 Susan Katz  
 Joseph Castronova  
 Laura Nally  
 Joe Nally  
 Refuge Staff-Craig Bitler

...continued from page 1  
 We hope to schedule a second homestead cleanup in the fall — perhaps returning to continue the cleanup of Hidden Valley — or possibly one of the other areas purchased by the Refuge that needs work.

Homestead Cleanup is hard work and at the end of the day, you're sore and tired — but what an opportunity to invest in the future of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.



During—Oliver and Bob looking for an empty space!



After—Dumpsters filled to the brim—Lisa, Judy, Laurel, Craig, Sibeli and Bob call it a day!



After—You'd never know there was a nursery here...but there's still more to be done!

### FROM THE BOOKSTORE...

The Bookstore has been open every Saturday since March 10<sup>th</sup> as well as Sundays in April. We'd like to welcome new bookstore volunteers—Edythe and Charlie Risberg, Brenda Ayres, Cathy and Neil Borman.

The Bookstore will continue to be open on Saturdays from 11:00 to 5:00 through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Stop by for brochures and checklists for the Great Swamp, maps and directions, coffee (cookies on occasion), and rest rooms.

We have some neat new items in stock—Great Swamp magnets with stunning photos of local birds and bookmarks with similar photos, as well as an expanded selection of children's books. We carry basic field guides (flowers, birds, ferns, frogs, trees, butterflies), the new Sibley Bird Guide (see Book Review below), and books about swamps and swamp life. You'll find a terrific selection of Judy's pottery, as well as notecards, framed prints, photographs, T.R. Bear—and of course the Endangered Species chocolate bars (or is that the *endangered chocolate bars*—these are a popular and delicious item!).

So—stop by at 148 Pleasant Plains Road on a Saturday and say hello to Whisper the bookstore dog!

### BOOK NOOK — THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRDS

In case you don't know, there's a new and somewhat different guide to bird watching on the market, on kitchen tables and even in the field. National Audubon Society's *The Sibley Guide to Birds* written and illustrated by David Allen Sibley bucks several trends in recently published guides, but is already a favorite reference book for many "birders". While the excellent Stokes guides and Audubon's previous bird books used photographs, Mr. Sibley's illustrations, all 6,600, are beautiful water-color paintings. Although many guides are for limited geographic regions, this book covers the United States and 810 species. For each bird, there are numerous views, including the expected male, female, and immature, but also, "fresh adult" and "worn adult" and flight views from below *and* from above. The range map is on each page, rather than in a separate section. The descriptions of the habitat, behaviors and voice of each bird are extensive. But, to accomplish all of this, the book is in a somewhat larger format, albeit with a laminated, soft cover and a binding that allows the book to open flat.

Initially, I thought this was a great book and we'd use it at home before and after trips. However, I have encountered numerous people carrying it in their packs, having it open on the trunk while scoping, or tucked in the front seat console. Obviously, Sibley knows what he is doing, which is making bird watching even more fun. —Kathy Woodward

### WE'RE ALL CONNECTED

You can reach the Friends Board of Directors in many ways...

- ✓ Phone number is 908.797.7200—please leave a message, we'll get back to you!
- ✓ Web site is [www.friendsofgreatswamp.org](http://www.friendsofgreatswamp.org)
- ✓ E-mail address—[webmaster@friendsofgreatswamp.org](mailto:webmaster@friendsofgreatswamp.org)
- ✓ In person on Saturdays at the Bookstore!



### HELP WANTED—NEWSPAPER CLIPPERS

Our Friends Mission is to get the word out to the general public about all the wonderful things that are going on in the Refuge and in the Friends group. We do that by sending out press releases and submitting feature stories to the local press. We need help checking the local papers to see where our material is being printed.

We are looking for members of the Friends group to volunteer to go through one local paper each. If you can take responsibility for looking at one newspaper (daily, weekly, or the Sunday paper) and clipping any articles that pertain to the Refuge or the Friends group, we need your help!

Contact the Friends Voice mail at 908.797.7200 — leave a message for Sue, or e-mail [ReedofGV@aol.com](mailto:ReedofGV@aol.com) and leave your name, phone number and the name of the paper you would like to handle.

## BUY DUCK STAMPS... AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

*The 2001-2002 Federal Duck stamp will go on sale June 29th.*

*And why, you ask, should I care?*

*Well... there are a whole bunch of reasons.*

*Let's take a look.*

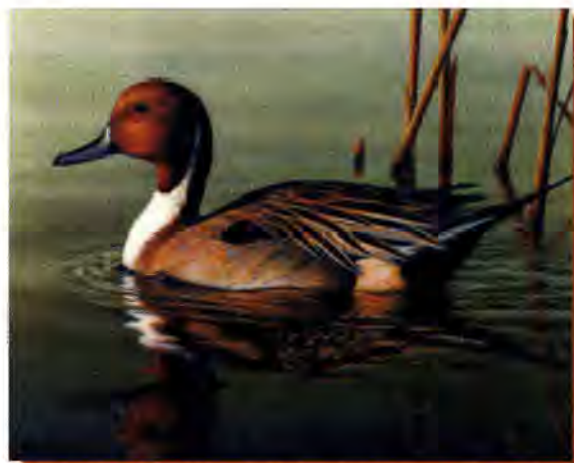
**A Resounding Success Story...** According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in the years since its enactment in 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has become one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated. To date, half-a-billion Duck Stamp dollars have gone to preserve more than 5 million acres of wetland habitat for North American Wildfowl. Many of the 500-plus national wildlife refuges have been paid for all, or in part, by Duck Stamp money.

### Some Duck Stamp Facts...

- ✓ President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act in 1934.
- ✓ A pair of mallards grace the first duck stamp, created by political cartoonist and conservationist "Ding" Darling; some 635,000 stamps were sold in 1934 at \$1.00 each.
- ✓ Revenues collected from stamp sales are deposited directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to purchase wetlands and wildlife habitat for inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- ✓ Over 2,500 acres of land have been purchased for Great Swamp NWR from Duck Stamp revenues.
- ✓ Initially a commissioned work, since 1949 there has been an annual competition with hundreds of the best wildlife artists competing each year.
- ✓ Mallard and canvasback have been the most popular ducks with 4 duck stamps each.
- ✓ Nancy Howe from Vermont, winner of the 1990-91 duck stamp contest, was the first woman to win the federal contest with her King Eider.
- ✓ The only North American migratory wildfowl which has never appeared on a duck stamp is the Black Scoter – this will be the only eligible species for the 2002-2003 duck stamp contest.

### What can you do with a duck stamp?

- ✓ Hunt waterfowl – all waterfowl hunters 16 years or older must buy a stamp annually.
- ✓ Visit a Refuge—A current Duck Stamp provides free admission to National Wildlife Refuges that charge entrance fees.
- ✓ Start a collection—it's a fun hobby at a bargain price – and there are special frames, sold by retail outlets such as Wild Wings, to display your collection.



2001-2002 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP WINNER  
PINTAIL

ARTIST —ROBERT HAUTMAN

- ✓ Buy duck stamp prints – winning artists also sell collectable art prints of their entry – framed these make stunning pictures for your wall – affordable wildlife art by some of the top wildlife artists in the country today.

### A Work in Progress

Every time you visit Great Swamp and other wildlife refuges, you are benefiting from the Federal Duck Stamp program that helped create these critical habitats – for ducks and for people. Yet every day, additional habitat is plowed under or paved over. One way you, and every citizen, can help conserve our precious migratory waterfowl populations, is to buy duck stamps. It's a direct and effective way to benefit the birds – and contribute to the preservation of our natural heritage.

Purchase a duck stamp at your Post Office, at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, or call 1-800-STAMP24. Look at all you can do for a \$15.00 investment!

If you would like to know more about duck stamps and the Federal Duck Stamp Program visit the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service web site at <http://duckstamps.fws.gov>. The Friends Bookstore also carries *The Duck Stamp Story* by Eric Dolin and Bob Dumaine – which includes color photos of 67 years of duck stamp winners and a wealth of information about the program, the artists, and the stamps.

**TAKE YOUR BEST GUESS**

Fill in the blanks using the numbers on the right.

- A. The National Wildlife Refuge System manages about \_\_\_\_\_ acres. These lands are set aside to preserve and protect this country's natural environment.
- B. Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ people visit Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge annually, with wildlife observation being the most popular pursuit.
- C. There are \_\_\_\_\_ wild bee species and about \_\_\_\_\_ are native to the United States.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ Wood Ducks fledged from the nest boxes in Great Swamp in 1999.
- E. Tree frogs can climb \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ feet. They can also climb grass.
- F. Great Swamp is home to \_\_\_\_\_ species of frogs and \_\_\_\_\_ toads.
- G. There are \_\_\_\_\_ species of turtles in the Swamp. The Bog Turtle is endangered and the Wood Turtle is threatened. Can you name the other 7?
- H. The Cecropia moth is the largest moth in North America with a wing span of \_\_\_\_\_ inches or more.

1,108
30,000 and 4,000
370,000
50 to 100
10 and 2
9
6
93,000,000

Answers: (A) 93,000,000 (B) 370,000 (C) 30,000 wild bees and 4,000 US resident bees (D) 1,108 (E) 50 to 100 Feet (F) 10 Frogs and 2 Toads (G) 9 (H) 6

**VOLUNTEERS** (continued from page 1)**Listen up... now your Friends volunteer hours count too...**

Many Friends members also volunteer for the Refuge directly. Well – we have GREAT news! Tom McFadden will now record all of your hours as Volunteer Hours – whether you're working on a Friends event – or working on a Refuge project. If you have participated in the Bluebird House Clean-up, the Homestead Clean-up, or helped staff the Friends Bookstore on Saturdays – your hours will be reported to Tom and, *if you weren't already*, you'll be on your way to The 100 Hour Plus Club!

We'd like to thank Tom for this terrific idea. This is a classic "win-win". It

- ✓ increases the total number of volunteer hours contributed to the Refuge, improving their statistics,
- ✓ encourages Refuge volunteers who are also Friends members to volunteer for Friends-sponsored projects – the hours will add up even faster,
- ✓ supports our Friends mission statement – after all, we're all working to help the Great Swamp NWR,
- ✓ creates opportunities for the Friends to track and recognize our own member volunteers,
- ✓ provides statistics to underscore the benefits the Friends provide to the Refuge.

There are lots of opportunities to get involved – at any level. There are several opportunities mentioned in this newsletter – a newspaper clipper can volunteer from home; leading a group tour is a little more time consuming; helping out at the Bookstore can be as little as 3-hours a month. Counting up your hours is an easy way to measure your volunteer activities; the personal rewards are immeasurable.

**BOARD MEMBER RESIGNS**

It is with regret that we announce John Wilmot's resignation from our Board of Directors. John supported the Friends group in many capacities, including the coordination of special events and our first photo contest. While he faithfully made the trip from his home in Cherry Hill, a recent move to Pennsylvania has made Board participation difficult.

However, John promises to come back for cleanups and the Annual Turkey Walk, just after Thanksgiving. We send our sincere thanks to John for all of his hard work. We will miss his terrific sense of humor at our meetings.

Since our last newsletter, we have added forty names to our membership list. Welcome to all our new members. I'm sure you will find your membership both rewarding and fun. To all our other members, thank you for your continued support. It is greatly appreciated!

Are you looking for that unusual gift for someone who "has everything"? A one-year gift membership to the Friends Group may be just the answer. Acknowledgement will be sent naming you as the gift giver. Just mark off "gift" on the membership form below and be sure to give us your name as you would like it to appear on their Welcome Letter.

## FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership offers ways to get involved at many different levels. Members...

- receive a quarterly newsletter
- have opportunities to participate in special events
- contribute to the improvement of the refuge for all visitors.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, please fill out the information on this form, and mail with your check to

Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge  
152 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920

#### Yearly Membership

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

Membership is tax deductible!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Gift Donor, if gift

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I would be interested in volunteering (check one or more)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings & Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sales/Bookstore     | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs & Events |

The Friends is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation as defined under the laws of the state of New Jersey and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service under section 501-(c)-(3).

Something Really **BIG** is About to Happen!



*Friends of*  
**Great Swamp**  
National Wildlife Refuge

JUNE 2001