

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2017—DECEMBER 2017

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of Great Swamp NWR are pleased to present our Calendar of Events. Take a look at the educational programs, work days, volunteer opportunities, a book group, and more! We hope you'll join us for one—or many—of these events.

OCTOBER 2017

OCTOBER 8—OCTOBER 14 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

SUNSET WALKS EVERY NIGHT!

Sunday, October 8—Saturday, October 14
5:30 pm—dark



Join us to watch the many species of migrating ducks that descend into the Refuge pools to spend the night. It's awesome! Easy walk on service roads. Meet at Bluebird Parking Lot, 197 Pleasant Plains Road.

Special Photographer Walk, Thursday, October 12, 4:45 pm—dusk. Get out to the impoundments and set up your cameras early. Reservations required; call 973-425-9510 to sign up.

Citizen Science Opportunity

Sunday, October 8, Dawn to dusk

FRIENDS' SWAMP SITTERS HOST THE BIG SIT!

Learn more about birds and bird identification during this annual citizen science event. Stop by during the day and join the count—for a little while... or longer! Overlook on Pleasant Plains Road.



Second Sunday, October 8, 1:30—3:00 pm

FALL BIRDING IDENTIFICATION ... MIGRANTS, WINTER RESIDENTS, AND DUCKS Volunteer Corinne Errico will take us through the basics of bird identification followed by an optional walk to join The Big Sit and practice our skills. For all ages. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. Visitor Center.

Friday, October 13, 2:00—3:30 pm

REFUGE RAMBLE—THE BOCKOVENS The Bockoven Family farmed this land for over 200 years. Learn about the family with an indoor slide show followed by an interpretive walk on the Bockoven Trail. Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity

Friday, October 13, 9:00—11:00 am

GARDEN WORK DAY Join the GardenKeepers for fall cleanup in the gardens. No experience necessary. Visitor Center.

Friday, October 20, 2:00—3:30 pm

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP The Genius of Birds by Jennifer Ackerman. Visitor Center.

NOVEMBER 2017

Saturday, November 4

YOUTH DEER HUNT—Refuge trails closed; Visitor Center open.

Wednesday, November 8 through Saturday, November 11

ANNUAL DEER HUNT—Refuge trails closed; Visitor Center open.

HELEN C. FENSKE VISITOR CENTER

Enjoy state-of-the-art exhibits, Discovery Den activities for kids, the Great Swamp quilt, native plant gardens, trails including the Nature Detective Trail for kids and the one-mile White Oak Trail. Shop in the Friends Nature Shop—all proceeds support Refuge projects. Start your visit here!

Volunteer Opportunity

Sunday, November 5, 9:00—11:00 am

GardenKeepers Work Day. Join us for Fall garden cleanup and to put up the winter bird feeders. Visitor Center.

Saturday, November 11, 1:30—3:00 pm

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Learn about volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp NWR. Visitor Center.

Sunday, November 12, 1:30—3:00 pm

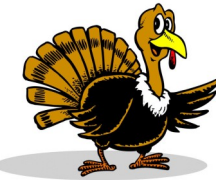
SECOND SUNDAY—ALL ABOUT THE PASSAIC RIVER WATERSHED Join Gigi Graham, Watershed Ambassador, with a special program on the Passaic River, its history, and the critters living in the river. Optional walk to the Passaic River. Visitor Center.

Friday, November 17, 2:00—3:30 pm

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP The Invention of Nature by Andrea Wulf. New members welcome. Visitor Center.

Saturday, November 25, 1:00—2:30 pm

ANNUAL TURKEY WALK Join us as we walk off that Thanksgiving turkey, Informal walk into the Management Area, normally closed to the public. Easy walk along service roads. Meet at Bluebird Parking Lot, 197 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township.



DECEMBER 2017

Friday, December 1—Sunday, December 3, 10:00—4:00 daily

DOUBLE DISCOUNT DAYS AT THE FRIENDS NATURE SHOP

10% off all purchases—20% for members. Get your holiday shopping done early and help your favorite place—Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. All Nature Shop proceeds are used to fund Refuge projects. Visitor Center.



Saturday, December 2, 5:00—7:00 pm

FRIENDS MEMBER MEETING & POT LUCK DINNER

For all Friends Members. Pot luck dinner and business meeting. Bring a favorite dish to share.

Citizen Science Opportunity

Saturday, December 16 **118TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

This is an annual event when thousands of people, all over the country, spend a day counting birds. Even if you are a novice birder you can join a team. It's fun, easy, and a nice day outdoors. Call the Visitor Center for more information.

Prefer to stay indoors? The Friends will be counting the birds at our feeders. Join us and learn the common winter feeder birds and contribute to the Christmas Bird Count data.

Visitor Center closed: November 23 (Thanksgiving Day); December 24—25; December 31—January 1, 2018.

Note: No Refuge Readers or Second Sunday program in December.



FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WWW.FRIENDSOFGREATSWAMP.ORG 973-425-9510

HELEN C. FENSKE VISITOR CENTER, 32 PLEASANT PLAINS ROAD, HARDING TOWNSHIP, NJ—OPEN DAILY, 10:00—4:00

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY—MARCH 2018



JANUARY 2018

New Year's Day, Monday, January 1. Refuge Trails Open, Visitor Center Closed.

Sunday, January 14, 1:30—3:00 pm
SECOND SUNDAY... with Friends
WHO USES A WOOD DUCK BOX?

Join volunteer Leo Hollein for a fascinating look at wood ducks and the many other wildlife species which make use of Refuge wood duck boxes. Optional walk to check out a wood duck box. Will we find a roosting screech owl? Visitor Center.



Monday, January 15

FEDERAL HOLIDAY.

Refuge Trails Open, Visitor Center Closed.

Friday, January 19, 2:00—3:30 pm *(3rd Fridays)*

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Discussion of: Salt by Mark Kurlansky. New members welcome. Copies available for loan at the Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, January 27, 1:30—3:00 pm **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**
We need more volunteers! Especially greeting visitors in the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center. Come learn about the many volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp NWR. Visitor Center.

FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday, February 11, 1:30—3:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY... with Friends

SUNDAY MOVIE MATINEE (Movie to be announced)

Join us for popcorn and a movie. Visitor Center.

February 16—18, 10:00 am—4:00 pm daily

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT *You can be a citizen scientist!*

The **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC) is a worldwide, free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations.

- Join us for a census of winter birds at our feeders. Results are reported to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
- Continue the count outdoors on a guided walk.
- Learn the names of common feeder birds with Bird Bingo.
- Make a suet feeder and other activities and crafts for kids.



This is a great way to learn about birds and to get started birding. Bird watchers of all ages and skills are welcome. Visitor Center.

Friday, February 16, 2:00—3:30 pm *(3rd Fridays)*

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Discussion of: Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the West by Wallace Stegner. New members welcome. Books available for loan at Visitor Center. Visitor Center.

MARCH 2018

Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, March 3, 1:30—3:00 pm **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**
Come and learn about volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Visitor Center.

Sunday, March 11, 1:30—3:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY ... with Friends **THE MAKING OF A MOVIE**

Join Directory Scott Morris for a behind the scenes look at the making of the film Saving the Great Swamp. In celebration of the Refuge System's 115th anniversary, there will be cake! Visitor Center.

Friday, March 16, 2:00—3:30 pm *(3rd Fridays)*

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion of: The Lost Whale: The True Story of an Orca Named Luna by Michael Parfit. New members welcome. Copies available for loan at the Visitor Center.

Two Nights!

Sunday, March 18 & Thursday,

March 22, 6:30 pm—dusk

SPRING WOODCOCK WALKS

Watch and listen to the elaborate mating displays of the American woodcock. Indoor program followed by a guided walk on Pleasant Plains Road. Program and walk led by volunteer Pete Axelrod. Dress warmly. Visitor Center.



Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, March 24, 11:00—12:30 pm

REFUGE WORK DAY Join us for Spring Cleanup at the Wildlife Observation Center (WOC). Bring lunch and stay for the WOC Volunteer Orientation at 1:00 pm.

Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, March 24, 1:00—2:00 pm

WOC VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Volunteers are needed to staff the Wildlife Observation Center (WOC) by greeting visitors, recording wildlife sightings, and handing out Bird Bingo. It's fun, easy and you'll learn a lot. Join us to find out how you can get started volunteering. Wildlife Observation Center.

Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, March 24 through Sunday, June 17

SPRING MIGRATION STAFFING SEASON Volunteers Needed! Wildlife Observation Center.

Volunteer Opportunity—Mark your calendars!

Saturday, April 7, 9:00—Noon **ROADSIDE CLEANUP**

