

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: Saving the Great Swamp, the award-winning documentary film. Join us for popcorn, hot chocolate and the inspirational 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. Visitor Center.

Monday, February 19, **FEDERAL HOLIDAY**—President's Day. Refuge Trails Open, Visitor Center Closed.

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 Director 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. **NOTE: Space is limited; reservations required. Call 973-425-9510.**

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. All are welcome. Visitor Ctr.

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

Saturday, March 31, 9:00—11:00 am **SPRING GARDEN WORK DAY.** No experience necessary. Visitor Center.



GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL—JUNE 2018

APRIL 2018

Watch for announcements of weekend **TARGET ARCHERY OPEN SHOOTS**. Certified instructors. Ages 10 and up. Visitor Center.



Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, April 7, 9:00—Noon **ROADSIDE CLEANUP** Help pick up litter and debris along Refuge roads. Meet at Refuge Headquarters, 241 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township.



Sunday, April 8, 1:30—3:00 pm **SECOND SUNDAY...with Friends CELEBRATING EARTH "MONTH"** Come share your ideas for Earth Month—What can we do at Great Swamp? What can you do at home? Interactive Panel Presentation. For all ages. Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity

Wednesday, April 11, 9:00—11:00 am **GARDEN WORK DAY** Join us for some spring garden cleanup. Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity Thursday, April 12, 9:00—Noon **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY** Make a difference! Help control invasive plant species. Volunteer work days on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays each month. Visitor Center.

Friday, April 20, 2:00—3:30 pm **REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** *Alex & Me* by Irene Pepperberg. New members always welcome. Copies available for loan. Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity Thursday, April 26, 9:00—Noon **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY** See April 12 for details.

Saturday, April 28, 10:00 am—3:00 pm **JUNIOR REFUGE MANAGER—EARN YOUR BADGE DAY** For kids ages 5 to 13. Volunteers will be on hand to help you complete your Activity Guide and earn your Junior Refuge Manager Badge. Wildlife Observation Center, 220 Long Hill Rd. Harding Twp.



MAY 2018

Volunteer Opportunity Saturday, May 5, 9:00—11:00 am **GARDEN WORK DAY** Join us to work in the gardens. No experience necessary. Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity Saturday, May 5, 1:30—3:00 pm **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** Learn about volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Visitor Center.



Sunday, May 6, 1:30—3:00 pm **REFUGE RAMBLE** Informal guided walk with Hispanic Access Foundation intern Dan Correa and Friends. A different topic each month. Bilingual. Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity Thursday, May 10, 9:00—Noon **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY** See April 12 for details.

Sunday, May 13, 1:30—3:00 pm **SECOND SUNDAY...with Friends GREAT THICKET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, NELLIE HILL TRACT** Join Refuge Biologist George Molnar to learn more about this new refuge created to protect the New England cottontail and other species that utilize thicket habitat. Visitor Center.

Friday, May 18, 2:00—3:30 pm **REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** *The Naturalist (Theodore Roosevelt)* by Darrin Lunde. New members welcome. Copies available for loan. Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 20, 10:00 am—3:00 pm **JUNIOR REFUGE MANAGER—EARN YOUR BADGE DAY** See April 28 for details. Wildlife Observation Center.

Volunteer Opportunity Thursday, May 24, 9:00—Noon **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY** See April 12 for details.

Volunteer Opportunity Friday, May 25, 9:00—11:00 am **GARDEN WORK DAY** Join us to work in the gardens. No experience necessary. Visitor Center.

Monday, May 28, **FEDERAL HOLIDAY—Memorial Day.** Refuge Trails Open, Visitor Center Closed.

JUNE 2018

Saturday, June 2, 10:00—11:30 am **HEAD-START TURTLE DAY** Welcome the wood turtle hatchlings back from Massachusetts and get an update on our innovative and successful head-start program with Colin Osborn and Dr. Kurt Buhlmann. Visitor Center Pavilion.

Saturday, June 2, 4:30—7:00 pm **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT.** By invitation. Visitor Center.

Sunday, June 3, 1:30—3:00 pm **REFUGE RAMBLE** Informal guided walk with Dan Correa and Friends. A different topic each month. Bilingual. Visitor Center

Volunteer Opportunity Saturday, June 9, 9:00—11:00 am **GARDEN WORK DAY** No experience necessary. Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity Saturday, June 9, 1:30—3:00 pm **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** Visitor Center



Sunday, June 10, 1:30—3:00 pm **SECOND SUNDAY...with Friends MIGRATING MONARCHS** Monarchs have begun their journey north from Mexico. Join Kathleen Palmer for a fascinating look at this amazing insect and learn how we can all help. Take home a Monarch-friendly plant. Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity Thursday, June 14, 9:00—Noon **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY** See April 12 for details.

Friday, June 15, 2:00—3:30 pm **REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** This month we'll discuss *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity Wednesday, June 27, 9:00—11:00 am **GARDEN WORK DAY** No experience necessary. Visitor Ctr.

Volunteer Opportunity Thursday, June 28, 9:00—Noon **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY** See April 12 for details.

