



the Swamp Scene

friends of great swamp national wildlife refuge

ISSUE SIXTY SIX
SUMMER 2021

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Submissions Welcome*



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WHOSE HABITAT ARE WE PROTECTING?

By John Berry, Friends Board Member and Great Swamp NWR Volunteer

The Great Swamp Strike Team's mission is to restore and protect habitat. But whose habitat? A habitat is defined by the plant or animal species that inhabits it, and given the complexity of Great Swamp food webs, no matter where the team works, we're in the middle of countless species' habitats.

Recently, the Strike Team began working in Fields 47b and 47c. These are large, wet, brushy fields that the Refuge mows periodically in order to maintain them as large, wet, brushy fields—critical habitat for many iconic Great Swamp species. Glossy buckthorn, unfortunately, has

invaded both fields, and sections of 47c are now badly infested with this Eurasian shrub.

Except for the glossy buckthorn, however, both fields are in good condition. A diverse native plant community is anchored by some key bushes: blueberry, silky dogwood, buttonbush, and serviceberry. Wetter areas have a lot of bur-reed.



Field 47c: It's hard to see, but chimney swifts and purple martins are flying low, foraging for insects.

During three workdays in June, a couple of bird species were especially notable. Large numbers of purple martins and chimney swifts foraged constantly over the fields, often low to the ground. Both of these aerial insectivores are in long-term decline due to habitat loss. (According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, purple martin numbers fell by 37 percent between 1966 and 2015, while chimney swift numbers dropped by 72 percent.) The birds' habitat must of course include their aerial environment, where insect populations have been reduced by human actions below—development and insecticides. So, by working to eradicate glossy buckthorn in this corner of Great Swamp, the Strike Team is evidently protecting important habitat for purple martins and chimney swifts.

We are reprinting an article on Rich Guadagno which appeared in the October 2012 issue of Swamp Scene when the Richard J. Guadagno Pavilion was dedicated. On this twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks, the Friends will place a series of small American flags around the memorial plaque at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center. As you pass by, take a moment to pause and remember Rich, and so many others, who gave, and lost, their lives that day.

VISITOR CENTER PAVILION IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF RICHARD J. GUADAGNO

By Kathy Woodward, Friends Board Member and Refuge Volunteer

Rich Guadagno was aboard hijacked United Flight 93 on September 11, 2001, which crashed in Pennsylvania, killing all aboard. Rich was returning to California, where he was manager of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, after a visit with his family in New Jersey. On September 29, 2012, family members, Refuge staff, and Friends gathered at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to dedicate the Visitor Center pavilion in memory of Richard J. Guadagno and to celebrate what would have been Rich's fiftieth birthday.

Bill Koch, Refuge Manager, explained to the guests the appropriateness of the dedication. Rich grew up in Trenton, NJ and loved living things, from the plants in his garden to wild animals. After graduating from Rutgers University's Cook College in 1984, Guadagno worked as a biologist for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the New Jersey Fish and Game Department.

In 1988, Rich returned to Great Swamp NWR as refuge manager trainee. After subsequent career moves to Prime Hook, Supawna Meadows, Baskett Slough and Ankeny NWRs, Rich became the project leader at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 2000. Manager Koch noted Rich was also a trained law enforcement officer as well as an amateur classical guitarist. During the dedication, a recording of Rich's music played in the background. Friends President Susan Garretson Friedman explained that the pavilion is a well-used space—for workshops and lectures, and for children's activities and displays during Fall Festival. Tom McFadden, retired Visitor Services Coordinator at Great Swamp NWR, noted Rich was very interested in having more people know about the Refuge—and the pavilion is a wonderful tribute to Rich.

Rich's cousin, Joan Burkholtz, spoke for the family and expressed their gratitude to the Refuge and Refuge System for



acknowledging Rich's extraordinary courage. Rich posthumously received the Department of the Interior's Valor Award, which is presented to Interior employees who demonstrated unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk in the face of danger.

The dedication included the unveiling of the pavilion name and memorial rock with a plaque in honor of Rich.

RICHARD J. GUADAGNO SEPTEMBER 26, 1962—SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Richard J. Guadagno, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) employee, passionately devoted his life to the conservation of natural resources. He was the Refuge Manager of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge in California and a trained law enforcement officer when his flight, United Airlines 93, was hijacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001. Rich was among the brave passengers and flight crew whose heroic actions prevented further tragedy that fateful day.

Rich grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Rutgers University in 1984. After several positions with NJ Fish & Wildlife and USFWS, his first refuge manager position, as a trainee, was obtained at Great Swamp in 1988. Rich managed four more refuges before moving to Humboldt Bay NWR in 2000.

*** WE WILL NEVER FORGET ***



35TH VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION EVENT—A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

Once again, due to Covid-19, the annual Volunteer Recognition Event could not be held in person. But that didn't stop the celebration of volunteer achievements and the awarding of volunteer milestone awards. On Saturday, June 5, volunteers, staff and guests met on Zoom. Kurt Buhlmann gave a comprehensive presentation on the wood turtle head-start program. Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, struggling with a "dead zone", managed with perseverance to address the volunteers and offer her congratulations and thanks to all. Friends Board members and Visitor Services Manager Jonathan Rosenberg presented the milestone awards. The awards ceremony and Kurt's presentation may both be seen on the Friends YouTube Channel (search for Friends of Great Swamp NWR YouTube). We all hope to meet in person next year.



10,000 HOUR VOLUNTEER MILESTONE AWARD—KATHY WOODWARD

Kathy was a founding member of the Friends in 1999 and has served as President, Vice President and Secretary as well as chair of many committees over the years. She has initiated or enthusiastically supported myriad activities and has served as a mentor to many volunteers. She co-founded the Pervasive Invasive Team in 2009 and has led twice-monthly seasonal work days ever since. Not only is Kathy a passionate supporter of the Friends and the Refuge, she is also active at the national level, serving on the board of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. She has been a mentor in the Friends Partnership Mentoring Program which offers peer-to-peer coaching for Friends groups. Kathy was presented with this hand-carved, personalized blue goose—symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System. May it fly wherever she goes. Congratulations Kathy!



GEORGE SOLOVAY RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

This award is bestowed by the President of the United States to recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity. It is awarded to recognize over 4,000 hours of extraordinary service and that describes George perfectly! His impact at the Refuge is noticeable everywhere you look—the Vernal Pool platform on the Bockoven Trail, the Nature Detective Trail Kiosk, the Visitor Center front desk, the renovated Garden Club Blind, boardwalks and bridges on the White Oak Trail, the 600 foot boardwalk and the 8 foot high Chandler S. Robbins Viewing Platform. These are just a few of his accomplishments and each shows the special attention to detail and creative touches that he brings to every project. He heads up a dedicated and talented Construction Crew who are always ready to join him on the "next big thing". Which right now is the White Oak Trail Improvement Project. George exemplifies the definition of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Thank you George!

VOLUNTEER MILESTONE AWARDS

Awards include a Blue Goose Name Tag (100 hours), Milestone hour pins, perpetual plates on the 500 hour Honor Board and a "blue goose" for every 1,000 hours on the Blue Goose Honor Board.

100 HOUR CLUB

Paul Lauber

150 HOURS

Susan Katz, Paul Lauber, Phillip Round

250 HOURS

Paul Lauber, Betty Mills, Bob Muska,
Peter Osborn

500 HOURS

Ellen Greenhorn, Roberto Reisinger,
Kathie Willwerth

1,000 HOURS

Tom Gula, Matt Heiss

1,500 HOURS

Terry Kulmane, Steve Herdman

2,000 HOURS

John Berry

9,000 HOURS

Randi Emmer

10,000 HOURS

Kathy Woodward



ENJOY THE TRAILS AT GREAT SWAMP NWR—AND THANK THE TRAIL BLAZER VOLUNTEERS

By Laurel Gould, Volunteer and Friends Board Member, Photo by Jane Bell, Volunteer and Friends Board Member



There are about 11.4 miles of trails at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, ranging from the (almost always) wet and muddy trails of the Wilderness Area to the boardwalk trails at the Wildlife Observation Center as well as the newest trails at the Visitor Center.

Thousands and thousands of people enjoy these trails every year. But trails don't maintain themselves. Behind the scenes here at Great Swamp NWR there is a team of trail maintenance volunteers called Trail Blazers who spend hundreds of hours each year keeping the trails trimmed, clear, and litter free.

These volunteers work under the direction of Jonathan Rosenberg, Visitor Services Manager, assisted by Friends committee chairs Jane Bell and Steve Herdman. Their job is

to walk their assigned trails on a regular basis and after major storms. They clip branches, clear vegetation, move downed tree limbs if they can, pick up litter, and report any major issues that require more resources.

During the early part of the pandemic no volunteers were allowed on the refuge. Trail Blazers were among the first to return to volunteer duty in June of 2020. Since then, 19 volunteers have donated 360 hours to keeping the trails welcoming and safe for visitors. It's not an easy job. Trails can be muddy, summer is buggy, and the vegetation never stops trying to take back the trail. Trail Blazers use loppers, clippers, saws and weed whackers to clear trails. They replace blazes and identify, and often remove, invasive species.

Each spring the group meets to learn new techniques and safety measures, to share issues about their trails, and to replace or upgrade their tools and equipment, supplied by the Friends. This year the Friends presented Trail Blazer hats to members of the team (see photo).


While most of the trails are currently assigned, there is always an opportunity for a new volunteer to join the team. It's hard work but rewarding. If you are interested, complete the Volunteer Application Form found on the Friends website under the Volunteer tab.

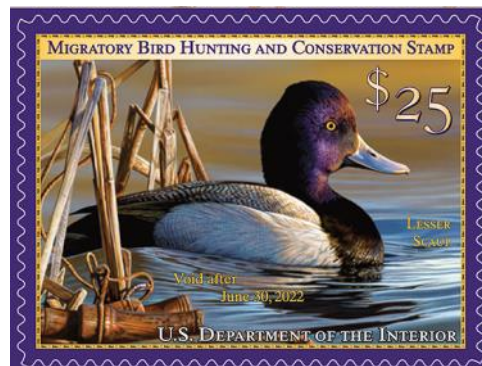
Photo above from left: John Wilmot, Steve Herdman, Bob Muska, Richard Hiserodt, Tom Gula, Roberto Reisinger, Claudia Osborn, Peter Osborn, Laurel Gould, John Becht

DO YOUR PART FOR REFUGES AND FOR CONSERVATION—BUY A FEDERAL DUCK STAMP

The 2021-2022 Federal Duck Stamp is now on sale. Proceeds from the sales of duck stamps are used to acquire and protect land for National Wildlife Refuges. Often donors wonder how much of their donation actually benefits the cause. In the case of Federal Duck Stamps, by law 98 cents of every dollar is used to conserve habitat for wildlife. This is probably the most effective conservation donation that you can make. When you purchase your stamp, ask for the free "key chain" so you can display it proudly on your binoculars or your backpack. A limited supply of free certi-

icates, suitable for framing, are also available.

The Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an annual pass for National Wildlife Refuges that charge an entrance fee. Now as you know, access to Great Swamp NWR is free, and you can come as often as you want. However, one way to show your appreciation for this fabulous natural area is by buying a Federal Duck Stamp. You may purchase the Federal Duck Stamp at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center, open Friday—Sunday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. 



The 2021-2022 Federal Duck Stamp features a lesser scaup drake painted by Delaware artist Richard Clifton.
Credit: ©USFWS

RARE DWARF BLUEBIRD EGG FOUND IN REFUGE NEST BOXES

Story and Photos by Leo Hollein, Great Swamp NWR Volunteer

Bluebirds, as well as other avian species, occasionally deviate from the standard process of forming an egg in their oviduct. The result is an unusual egg that could have no yoke, two yokes (peanut shaped), two shells or another type of malformed egg. A dwarf egg was found this season in a bluebird nest by volunteer Tom Gula. In 2013 a dwarf egg was also found in a Refuge bluebird nest. These are the only dwarf bluebird eggs found in over 1200 bluebird nestings since 2001. No other types of malformed eggs have been found in the Refuge bluebird boxes.



The photo above shows a clutch of 3 bluebird eggs. All are blue. Two are normal sized while the other is about a third of normal size and rounder. The smaller egg may have a rougher shell, it does not have a yolk and is infertile. This type of egg is usually called a “dwarf” egg. Other names for this egg are miniature egg or yokeless egg, as it only contains egg whites. The two normal eggs in the nest with the dwarf egg are viable. These eggs can hatch and produce bluebird fledglings.



After the annual Refuge deer hunt in November, the wood duck boxes are inspected and cleaned. Fresh wood chips are added to provide support for the duck eggs in the following season. Wood ducks do not build nests.

The photo to the left shows wood duck eggs found during a nest box inspection. Two eggs are normal

size. The other is a wood duck dwarf egg. Two of these malformed wood duck eggs have been found in Refuge nest boxes in the last 20 years.

I first observed a dwarf egg in a common tern nest while banding terns in Long Island. A dwarf emu egg from a subspecies that went extinct nearly 200 years ago was recently found on an Australian island. These incidents indicate that many birds produce dwarf eggs and have been doing so for a long time.

Two clutches of white bluebird eggs were found this season by Nancy Felicito. Both clutches of white eggs were laid by the same bluebirds in the same pair of nest boxes. The bluebirds successfully fledged young from these eggs. White bluebird eggs are not as rare as dwarf eggs but are infrequent enough to be noted. In the Refuge, white bluebird eggs have been found in about 2% of the bluebird nestings. These white eggs are not found every year. If the bluebird



pair that had the white eggs survive, it is likely they will return to the same box pair next season and have more white egg clutches.

Female bluebirds normally add a pigment in their oviduct to produce a blue egg. If the gene for this pigment is missing, the bluebird will always lay white eggs. There is no downside to white bluebird eggs because bluebirds lay their eggs in nest boxes or natural tree cavities where they are not visible to predators. Blue eggs are a carryover from the likely time when bluebirds nested in open nests like their robin relatives. The blue color remained when bluebirds became cavity nesters.

Many thanks to Nancy Felicito, Christine Pirog, Jim Mulvey and Tom Gula who monitored nest boxes and reported their findings on a weekly basis during the 2021 nesting season.

THE WHITE OAK TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IS MOVING RIGHT ALONG

By Dave Katz, Construction Crew Volunteer, Friends Board Member

Beginning in May 2021, the Friends Construction Crew began an ambitious project to renovate the White Oak Trail. The objective of the project was to create an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant trail system of stone dust paths and boardwalks that would be comparable to the trails at the Wildlife Observation Center.



The first task was to disassemble the two existing bridges on the trail (photo left) and widen them (photo right) to accommodate a wheelchair.



A new boardwalk was built connecting the two bridges.

ADA compliant ramps were also constructed at the entrance and exit of the bridges.



With the bridge section complete, the Construction Crew prepared for the first section of stone dust trail. This involved preparing the site, moving tons of gravel and stone dust, digging drainage ditches, burying conduit, and placing underlayment (a geosynthetic material to help stabilize the stone dust). Once all that has been accomplished, stone dust is applied and raked into position.



Digging drainage ditches and burying conduit (left).

Raking stone dust on the underlayment fabric (right).



The Construction Crew has moved into the wooded section of the trail. While here we will continue to apply stone dust, widen the existing boardwalk, and build new boardwalks in areas that flood. Challenges of work in clearing this area include boot deep mud, mosquitos, ticks, occasional 90 plus degree temperatures, and poison ivy. But the volunteers are committed to providing an excellent trail



Volunteer (and author) Dave Katz (left) with Construction Crew Leader George Solovay.

Another 300 feet of underlayment is ready for stone dust. ... and here it comes!



The underlayment is a grid that helps hold the stone dust in place.

The woodland section of the trail is coming together.



When not at the trail site, the volunteers are busy moving, measuring and cutting thousands of feet of lumber for the various boardwalk sections. The lumber is then stacked for delivery to three drop points along the trail by a large tracked forklift. From there, the volunteers hand-carry the lumber to the work sites to begin construction.



And that, fellow readers, is how you build an ADA compliant White Oak Trail. Hope you'll be able to try it soon.

Note: the project is being funded by US Fish and Wildlife Service and Friends of Great Swamp NWR.

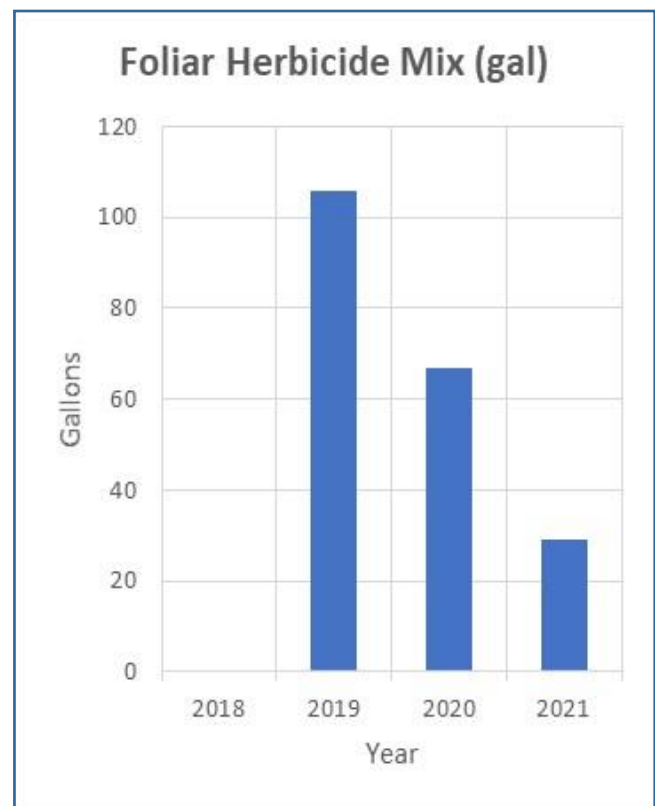
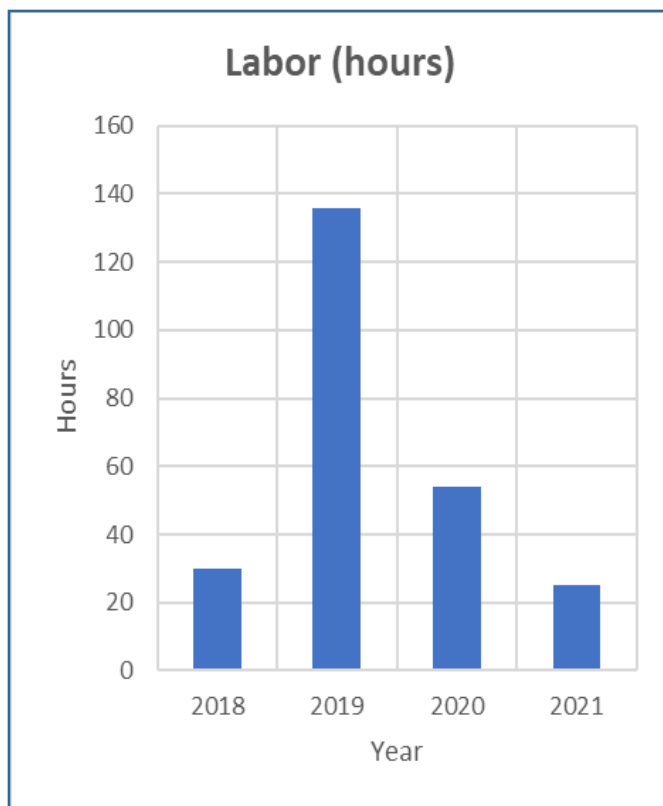
A COUPLE OF BAR GRAPHS ARE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

By John Berry, Friends Board Member and Great Swamp Strike Team Volunteer Leader

Over the years, the Great Swamp Strike Team has recorded a number of successes. A recent example is a combined infestation of porcelain berry and Japanese wisteria at the north end of the Orange Trail. When Colin Osborn (then Great Swamp field biologist) and I first inspected the site in 2017, an 8-foot-tall sea of these invasive vines covered about half an acre of open field. The infestation extended another half-acre into surrounding woods, topping many trees. Both plants had had time to lay down abundant seed banks. In the winter of 2018–2019, the Strike Team started cutting and treating the vines growing up trees. The following spring, an ACE (American Conservation Experience) crew used bladed weed-

whackers to cut down much of the “sea,” thereby allowing the Strike Team to begin a major eradication campaign: foliar treatment of resprouts and seedlings. The team completed two passes that summer and returned to the site for two follow-up passes in 2020. This summer marks our third season of foliar treatment. We needed just two workdays to cover the site. Native flowers, bushes, and trees are reclaiming the area. Porcelain berry and wisteria have not been eradicated, but this once severe infestation has become an annual maintenance project. More importantly, it is no longer a source of seeds for further invasion of Great Swamp NWR.

Orange Trail: Porcelain Berry and Wisteria Infestation



The Strike Team uses an herbicide mix called FS1 to foliar treat woody plants such as porcelain berry and wisteria. To restore this particular habitat, the team has carried almost 1,700 pounds of FS1 from the Meyersville Road trailhead to the site, a distance of approximately half a mile.

VOLUNTEERS ARE RECOGNIZED AND CELEBRATED AT 35TH ANNUAL RECOGNITION EVENT

Listed below are the active volunteers from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2021 with their cumulative hours, which is the total number of hours contributed since first becoming a volunteer, through March 31, 2021.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Jim Angley (896) | Pat Garvin (1,591) | Sean Lyons (58.5) | Jean Schumer (2) |
| George Apgar (54) | Jim Gilbert (40.5) | Victoria Maroldi (4) | Robert Schwaneberg (262.5) |
| Joann Apgar (427) | Val Giraldo (10) | Jim Marquis (559.5) | Ginnie Scott (112.5) |
| Doug Arbesfeld (11) | Lynda Goldschein (134.5) | Lynne Marquis (272.5) | Elaine Seckler (1,494.5) |
| John Ashenfelter (60) | Charles Gould (259.5) | Judy Marsh (82.5) | Andrew Shen (31) |
| Pete Axelrod (603) | Laurel Gould (10,491.5) | Bryan Mathis (172.5) | Peter Shen (69) |
| Joseph Balwierczak (1,956.5) | Ellen Greenhorn (528.5) | Ernie Mazzarisi (223.5) | Christine Shoengold (67.5) |
| Kate Bartley (48) | Anne Grote (15) | Tom McFadden (17) | Mark Shoengold (56.5) |
| Meghan Bartley (2.5) | Steve Gruber (1,655) | Kiera McLaughlin (60) | Gina Smith (303.5) |
| John Becht (86.5) | John Guibert (89) | Robert McLaughlin (3.5) | Tom Smith (578.5) |
| Jane Bell (682.5) | Rita Guibert (50) | Conor McNally (17) | Bill Smullen (256) |
| Steve Bell (23) | Tom Gula (1,237) | Andrew Meyer (2) | Dorothy Smullen (3,940) |
| John Berry (2,134) | Jim Halsey (914.5) | Jack Meyer (4.5) | George Solovay (4,419) |
| George Biava (9) | Mary Beth Hansbury (359) | Betty Mills (400) | Margaret Southwell (227.5) |
| Betsy Boles (931) | Margo Happer (6) | Evelyn Morton (130) | Sharon Sperduto (279.5) |
| Brenda Bourassa (345.5) | Liz Harding (3) | Bridget Mracek (765) | Janet Stadelmeier (297) |
| Barry Bowman (656) | Lois Harold (686.5) | Heather Mulvey (24.5) | Kent Stevens (357) |
| John Breault (673.5) | Anne Hebenstreit (659) | Jim Mulvey (1,060) | Cindee Still (RV Volunteer (110.5) |
| Lee Brush (158.5) | Norann Hein (7) | Kate Murphy (50) | Ed Sullivan (613.5) |
| Elena Caravela (6.5) | John Heinlin (24.5) | Kevin Murphy (56.5) | Florence Swanstrom (35.5) |
| Tom Cartwright (706.5) | Matt Heiss (1,077.5) | Patrick Murphy (10) | Caesar Sweitzer (4.5) |
| Teri Catalano (670) | Greg Henderson (1,343) | Robert Muska (304) | Elaine Taub (769) |
| Kevin Catlin (49) | Stephen Herdman (1, 634) | Ruth Nahm (243.5) | Beth Van Brunt (2.5) |
| Ann Chuba (5.5) | Maryann Higgins (136) | Laura Nally (4,172) | Chris Venter (35.5) |
| Rebecca Chuba (2.5) | Richard Hiserodt (680) | Joe Nooger (3.5) | Delaney Vinaixa (8.5) |
| Zachery Chuba (5.5) | Lori Hoak (14) | Lorraine Novinski (538.5) | Mir Vyas (25) |
| Peter Clark (98.5) | Helen Hoffman (751.5) | Melinda Nye (305) | Shyam Vyas (22) |
| Tamah Conover (5.5) | Bob Hofmann (636) | Amanda O'Connor (8) | Mary Jane Walsh (614.5) |
| Angelo Coussoule (4.5) | Leo Hollein (7,275.5) | Arlene O'Connor (19.5) | Kevin Ward (96) |
| Bill Craine (RV Volunteer) (889) | Mike Hollein (4) | Bonnie O'Connor (67) | Esther Warner (849) |
| Rena Craine (RV Volunteer) (476.5) | Mary Hollein (4) | John O'Connor (53) | Larry West (398.5) |
| Richard Derosier (241) | Beverly Kaltnecker (7.5) | David Ogens (5.5) | Elaine Weyuker (202) |
| Jim DeTizio (1,696.5) | Stan Kaltnecker (7.5) | Brian Osborn (182) | Barbara Whitmore (615.5) |
| Judi DiMaio (1,298) | Dave Katz (838.5) | Claudia Osborn (238) | Chuck Whitmore (1,061.5) |
| Lori Doughty (69.5) | Susan Katz (157.5) | Peter Osborn (251.5) | Jill Williams (12) |
| Allen Dreikorn (359.5) | Jane Kendall (1,333.5) | Tom Ostrand (233.5) | Kathleen Willwerth (505.5) |
| Patricia Dreikorn (207) | Sarah King (12) | Candace Paska (937) | Walter Willwerth (2,261.5) |
| May Duttenhoeffer (335.5) | Neil Klingenburg (904) | Bernie Peckman (10.5) | John Wilmot (2,437.5) |
| Corey Dwyer (2) | Bill Koch (653.5) | Guy Percival (2) | Christopher Wilson (2) |
| Lucille Dwyer (517) | Murali Krishna (89) | Jennifer Percival (2) | Carl Woodward (734) |
| Jan Dzwinczak (20.5) | Melene Kubat (33.5) | Gail Petrillo (264.5) | Kathy Woodward (10,186) |
| Mike Dzwinczak (36) | Peter Kubat (38) | Christine Pirog (66.5) | Kenneth Yetman (RV Volunteer) (643.5) |
| Randi Emmer (9,114.5) | Terry Kulmane (1,835.5) | Peg Ponzio (41) | Les Young (RV Volunteer) (145) |
| Corinne Errico (585.5) | Richard Lambert (2) | Fernanda Reisinger (42.5) | Susan Young (RV Volunteer) (120) |
| Nancy Felicito (1,163) | Lorrie Lane (428) | Roberto Reisinger (588.5) | Mary Ann Zimmerman (RV Volunteer) (457) |
| Donna Fenske (73) | Bonnie Langdon (278) | Phillip Round (178) | |
| Paul Fenske (1,162.5) | Paul Lauber (331) | Johnny Roush (648.5) | |
| Richard Fiedler (144) | Peter Lebovitz (221.5) | Tina Roush (422) | |
| Brittany Forslind (6.5) | Denise Lenhart (8) | Carolyn Rubinfeld (129.5) | |
| Susan Garretson Friedman (2,661.5) | Marc Levine (3) | Michael Rubinfeld (86) | |
| | Robert Lin (302.5) | John Rushman (3.5) | |
| | Daria Lisco (92) | Nancy Schenck (3,304) | |
| | Randy Little (25.5) | Judy Schmidt (7,728.5) | |



MERLIN BIRD ID ADDS A NEW FEATURE—IT'S AMAZING, EDUCATIONAL, AND DOWNRIGHT FUN!

By Laurel Gould, Volunteer and Friends Board Member;; Photo from Cornell Lab of Ornithology

If you have not downloaded the new sound app for Cornell's Merlin Bird ID, don't wait. It is not only educational, it's a lot of fun.

I am a skeptic and I thought having an app identify bird songs would be a crutch; people wouldn't bother to learn them. Birding by ear was dead! But quite the opposite.

I downloaded the app recently and went on my (almost) daily 3-mile walk up Still Hollow Road —and back down. I can identify the regulars —veery, catbird, cardinal, song sparrow. But here was one I didn't know. I launched the app, held my phone in the direction of the song —and almost immediately— indigo bunting! I've always thought that rapidly ascending trill might be a prairie warbler—confirmed! By the time I finished my walk that day, I had a list of thirty possible birds. Didn't I say amazing?

Now when I walk, I can test myself by identifying what I'm hearing and confirm (or not) with Merlin. It makes



me pay more attention and really listen to the various bird songs. The app sorts out the species when more than one bird is singing and shows them all in a list. And it does chip notes! The ID includes a photo of the bird, which helps reinforce the connection, and the species name lights up when the bird sings again.

Think of kids. You know how hard it is to locate, much less identify, songbirds in the lush vegetation of summer. But

with Merlin, the sound identifies the bird and presents the picture. Now they know exactly what they are looking for.

So, download the app to your smartphone, listen for a bird, press record and watch as Merlin shows matches in real time.

Did I mention, it's free!

What are you waiting for? Find the app at <<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>>

Thank you Cornell Lab of Ornithology!

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEEKING CANDIDATES

Friends is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the support of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Our organization is made up entirely of volunteers, including our Board of Directors.

We are seeking candidates who would be interested in serving on the Board or a Board Committee to assist with financial recordkeeping or budgeting. Advanced skills in Excel and knowledge of QuickBooks would be helpful.

Please contact Kathy Woodward <ka3woodward@gmail.com> for more information.

It's one more way to make a positive impact at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.



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
32 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ **EASTERN BLUEBIRD—\$15-\$49**

☐ **PAINTED TURTLE—\$50-\$99**

☐ **RIVER OTTER—\$100-\$249**

☐ **MONARCH BUTTERFLY—\$250-\$499**

☐ **WOOD DUCK—\$500 +**

☐ **New Member?**

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

You may also join online at www.friendsofgreatswamp.org

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 ...

**Become a Friend Today—or,
Give a gift membership to a friend.**

Thank you



Memberships help support the projects and programs at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Membership Benefits

- The Swamp Scene Newsletter.
- A 10% discount in Friends Nature Shop .
- Notifications of upcoming events.
- Satisfaction in knowing you are helping protect wildlife and wild places while safeguarding a national treasure for future generations.

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 NWR
32 Pleasant Plains Road
Basking Ridge NJ 07920

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THE SWAMP SCENE SUMMER 2021

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.