



the Swamp Scene

friends of great swamp national wildlife refuge

ISSUE EIGHTY
MARCH 2026

Highlights

The Swamp Awakens	1
President's Message	2
An Amazing Journey	3
Spring Migration	4
Battle of the Snag	5
Swamp Diary	6
In Praise of Eastern Red Cedar	8
Birding with the General	10
Camouflage Challenge	11
Washington's Army Kept Safe	12
Even Birds Have Bad Hair Days	14

Board of Directors

Tom Gula
President

Randi Emmer
Vice-President

Paul Lauber
Secretary

Tom Cartwright
Treasurer

Jane Bell
Judi DiMaio
Stephen Herdman
Dave Katz
Robert Lin
Kathy Woodward
Meg Zaliski

Mike Horne
Project Leader

Lenape National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Patricia Wells & Martha Wells
Editors

Terry Heide, Barbara Whitmore &
Carol Weingaertner
Eagle-eyed Proofreaders

Deadline for July 2026 issue
June 15, 2026
PandMWells@gmail.com

THE SWAMP AWAKENS

By Corinne Errico and Pat Wells; Photos by Corinne Errico except where noted

It's still cold when the peepers start calling. As the water warms just enough, the hormones kick in and the frogs are looking for love. On days we're down to sweaters, the chorus of lusty males can be as raucous as a bad cicada year.

This tiny frog (3/4" - 1 1/4") survives the winter under leaf litter or bark by slowing its heart rate and using stored sugar supplies as anti-freeze. It breeds in vernal pools (temporary spring ponds) from early March through May. It can be olive, brown, gray, or yellow, and it has a dark X on its back. Its "peep, peep, peep" gives it its name. A sudden alarm-like "PEEP" means one ardent male has mistaken another male for a female, and has been warned off.

The wood frog awakens in late February and mates through March in the same vernal pools that the peepers enjoy. Though they mate in water, wood frogs spend most of their lives on land, using leaf litter for cover. Tadpoles eat primarily algae. However, adults switch to insects and invertebrates.



Wood frog



Spring peeper,

This wood frog measures only 2" to 3". The female is larger than the male. They can be brown, red, gray, or green. The females tend to be brighter in color. The identifying feature of the wood frog is the wide black streak over each eye.

Amidst the chorus of peepers, you will hear the solitary quack of the wood frog.

Ephemeral flowers wait a little

(continued on page 13)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: SHUTDOWN, CORPORATE WORKDAYS, & 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE OAK TRAIL, *By Tom Gula, President, Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge*

Needless to say, it's been a particularly hard winter at Great Swamp NWR this year, with several heavy snowfalls, as well as very low temperatures. In spite of these conditions, activities at the Refuge continued.

On Friday, February 23, 2026, Great Swamp NWR hosted a Freedom 250 Commemoration in honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Great Swamp NWR was one of the 12 wildlife refuges chosen to emphasize the importance of conserving public lands throughout our nation's history. The highlight of the day was the raising of both a Betsy Ross flag and USFWS flag outside the Fenske Visitor Center by several veterans, members of refuge staff and Friends members. Our Friends group was pleased to be able to support this special occasion.

As many of you know, the Wildlife Observation Center was closed to the public beginning in early January while a project funded by several generous donations to our Friends group engaged in a major restoration of wetlands habitat along several of the boardwalks. Here is a short description of the overall goal of the project:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge engaged in a wetland habitat restoration project in Winter 2025-2026. This project, funded largely by individual donations, consisted of the removal of invasive aquatic vegetation and the promotion of early successional habitat adjacent to boardwalks at the Wildlife Observation Center. The restoration efforts should assist in improved water quality through decreased sedimentation and the promotion of ecologically-important, open water marsh habitat.

The diverse wildlife ecosystems at the Great Swamp NWR support many species of waterfowl, herons, turtles, snakes, fishes, and frogs. These species benefit from the restoration of open water marsh habitat that the restoration efforts have promoted.

In the meantime, work continues on the addition to the Visitor Center.

We look forward to spring, visiting the WOC again and celebrating our public lands.



AN AMAZING JOURNEY

By Matt Heiss, Photos by Dave Katz

As a part of the Flags Across America for Freedom 250, the commemorative flag made a stop at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in January of 2026. The flag has currently logged just over 40,000 miles in its journey across 10 countries, and several U.S. territories. The flag returned to U.S. soil on October 8, 2025, and is currently being transported state by state courtesy of the National Sheriffs Association. As of January, the flag had reached 22 states.



Reenactors

This flag initiative is being led by the USFWS, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA. The motto of the event is “By Air, By Land, By Water.” This references the anniversary and celebration of conservation efforts for all species.

Each stop the flag makes at a refuge, or hatchery, is intended to celebrate conservation as an American value. Also, it allows us to share stories about conservation while connecting our past with our future, and continuing our stewardship for future generations.

The Freedom 250 event at Great Swamp featured guest speakers, historical reenactments, a flag raising ceremony, and a Visitor Center tour. All attendees received a 250 commemorative coin celebrating the milestone. Thank you to the Friends of the Great Swamp for hosting the event, and for a delicious lunch afterwards.

The final destination for the flag is Washington DC. On July 4th, 2026, it will be presented to the



Staff and volunteer veterans (left to right) Walter Willwerth, Jesse Mihatov, Rob Bradley, and Robert Lin



(Left-to-right) Desiree Sorenson-Groves, President, National Wildlife Refuge Association; Cynthia Martinez, Chief of National Wildlife Refuge System; Anna Harris Bisson, Deputy Refuge Manager, Lenape National Wildlife Refuge Complex; Sharon Marino, Acting Regional Director, Northeastern Region; Tom Gula, President, Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

America 250th committee, then raised in a salute to unity.



SPRING MIGRATION

By Jack Donohue

Each March, after months of shortened daylight hours, icy temperatures and mountains of snow, spring finally emerges to celebrate nature's rebirth.

Birds lead the way migrating to New Jersey from warmer climates. Robins, bluebirds, tree swallows and phoebes are soon joined by yellow rumped and pine warblers, waterthrush, kinglets and gnatcatchers.

If you look carefully, you might identify the bulb-like spathe of skunk cabbage emerging through the snow or see the red-spotted newt in vernal pools.

On the ground, you might spot the NJ State Flower, the blue violet, and of course, trout lilies with their brown mottled green leaves and nodding yellow bell-like flowers.

The sounds of spring are punctuated by the calls of wood frogs and the high-pitched whistles of spring peppers, possibly the most recognizable harbinger of spring.

However, there is a second migration each year. This year in particular the residents of New Jersey can't wait to migrate from their cozy couches and warm



Migratory humans on the White Oak Trail surrounded by red osier and silky dogwood, and red maples in bloom. Photo by Martha Wells

homes after a record number of sub-zero days and snowfalls of up to twenty and thirty inches.

NJ residents long to join the emerging flora and fauna to celebrate the rebirth of spring, and there is no better place to do it than at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (GSNWR).

The 8,000-acre refuge contains diverse habitats of hardwood swamps, cattail marshes, grasslands, ponds, mixed hardwood forests, streams and woodlands. All are essential for maintaining the intricate web of life of reptiles, amphibians, fish, mammals, invertebrates and birds.

Watch spring emerge from one of our many trails at the Wildlife Observation Center (WOC), the Visitor's Center or in our Wilderness Area. Another option is a leisurely drive along Pleasant Plains Road which has designated parking and viewing areas.

So, no matter what your pleasure, please plan to visit the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to help us celebrate the joys of spring!



Tree swallows, Photo by Carol Duffy

BATTLE OF THE SNAG OR MERLIN VS BLUE JAY

Photos by Steve Weiner



Female merlin guarding her perch from a blue jay.



Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is one of the earliest plants to bloom in Great Swamp. A hoodlike leaf called a spathe encloses the spadix, which is a ball of fleshy flowers that have no petals.

The spadix can increase the temperature within the spathe up to 20° higher than the surrounding temperature. This, along with the plant's foul odor, attracts carrion-feeding flies and gnats, its primary pollinators.

Skunk cabbage, photo by marcjohnson/iNaturalist (CC BY-NC some rights reserved)

SWAMP DIARY: STEVE AND GEORGE'S WILDERNESS ADVENTURE

By Steve Herdman

I always had a real proclivity towards the sciences, especially the natural sciences. As a kid I was captivated by a romantic vision of the wilderness. I don't think you ever outgrow such notions.

In the mid-1950's I ate Quaker Oats cereals by the bowl full in order to acquire the deed for one square inch of Yukon Territory that came in each box. I hoped to accumulate enough to live there.

I think I wound up with at least 12 of them. The television show "Sergeant Preston of the Yukon" had commercials showing a lucky bunch of kids building an igloo on their accumulated inches of

exercise in futility. I would never have enough one-inch deeds for a plot of land or a means to get there. I kept the deeds for many years before I lost track of them.

After spending years behind an office desk, I was fortunate upon retiring to volunteer at Great Swamp NWR. I soon was maintaining the Blue and Ivory trails. This fed my desire to be outdoors. Kind of like being a lumberjack in the northern wilderness.

Among the duties was clearing trails of fallen trees by either moving them or cutting a path through them with a bow saw. This I found was much more enjoyable than being office bound.

In March 29, 2016, George Solovay, another trail maintainer, contacted me to see if I could help clear a part of the Red Trail. This is a Wilderness Area trail and no power tools were permitted.

I met George at the shop to pick up a two man saw, a hammer, and some wedges. The saw was about 4 ½ feet long. We had to carefully remove it from its case and attach the handles and ensure the blade guard was firmly in place. The weather was a little chilly, but sunny and pleasant that day. We took turns carrying the hammer and wedges, while the other carefully carried the saw.

We talked about various trail clearing efforts that had to be done manually. Our tree was a Red Oak and it was big. The magnitude of the task did not register until seeing this huge tree lying before us. It was almost up to my chest.

I had used a two-man saw once before at a Fall Festival at Great Swamp NWR when the American Conservation Experience crew demonstrated sawing techniques. They explained the proper method which is to pull the saw towards you and then your partner pulls it back. When they pull, you do not push as it will cause the saw to bend. You steady it as your partner pulls. I think we cut about four pieces off a tree laying horizontally. It was fun, easy, quick, and somewhat exhilarating. But the tree at the Fall Festival was only about ten inches in diameter. The tree in front of George and me was huge, about 3 ½ feet in diameter.

The tree had fallen directly across the trail be-



Steven Herdman in his Yukon Territory Days

land in the frozen wilderness. I imagined myself frolicking in the snow with my friends in the wilds of Canada. It wasn't until Quaker Oats discontinued the program that I realized it had been an ex-

tween two low ridges so we were able to select a spot on the tree that was elevated off the ground.



George Solovay with the Two-Man Saw, Wedge, and Hammer

Once the saw bit into the tree about an inch or so, we began to make a lot of headway quickly. You could see the saw descend through the wood as each pull brought a shower of sawdust.

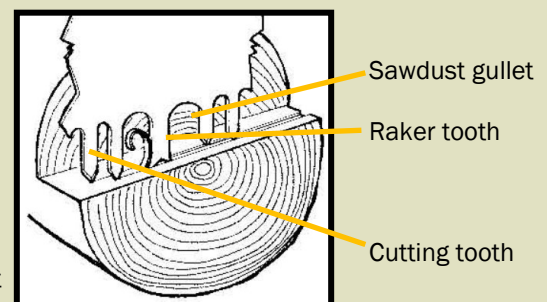
After a few minutes, the saw began to bind so we stopped and hammered the wedge into the cut, being careful not to get too close to the sawblade. Leaving the wedge in place, we continued sawing and found the going much easier for several minutes, until we had to stop and hammer the wedge in a little further. When we were close to cutting through, we stood back until the end finally broke.

The first cut took about 20 minutes. We needed to create adequate room for hikers to get through so we made the next cut about 4 ½ feet from the first cut. This was a little harder since the tree was now higher after losing the weight of its crown. The cutout section fell with a thud, but with little motion from the tree. But we were not done. Together we rolled the log section until it was appreciably off the trail.

We didn't talk much on the way back to the parking lot. I was feeling proud of our accomplishment. It was just the kind of adventure I dreamed of years earlier. Thank you, George and Great Swamp NWR for the opportunity.

HOW THE TWO-MAN CROSSCUT SAW WORKS

The cutting teeth of a crosscut saw sever the fibers on each side of the kerf (slot the saw makes when cutting). The raker teeth, cutting like a plane bit, peel the cut fibers and collect them in the sawdust gullets between the cutting teeth and the raker teeth and carry them out of the cut. A properly sharpened crosscut saw cuts deep and makes thick shavings. On large timber, where the amount of shavings accumulated per stroke is considerable, a large gullet is necessary to carry out the shavings to prevent the saw from binding. [From US Forestry Service Publication 7771-2508-MTDC Crosscut Saw Manual: www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/htm77712508/]



IN PRAISE OF THE EASTERN RED CEDAR

By Lori Sorensen

The eastern red cedar is an evergreen tree with a native range which includes the eastern United States and parts of Canada. Its scientific name *Juniperus virginiana*, unlike its common name, accurately reflects that it is a juniper not a cedar. According to the Missouri Botanical Garden (mobot.org), it tolerates deer, drought, erosion, dry soil, shallow rocky soil, black walnut and urban conditions. It is a tough tree!

Eastern red cedar can be a pioneer species



*Cones on male Eastern red juniper,
photo by Alan Cressler, unrestricted use*



Berry-like cones on female Eastern red juniper, photo by Pat Wells



*Eastern red cedar at Pleasant Plains Road Overlook,
photo by Pat Wells*

that shows up early to disturbed areas. It can be long-lived if not shaded out or outcompeted by faster growing trees. In some prairie and grassland locations west of its native range, eastern red cedar is disrupting ecosystems.

The trees are dioecious, male and female. The cones on the male trees are small, yellowish, and nu-



*Cedar Wax Wing, photo by Cheryl Colgan,
3rd place, Birds Category, 2021*

Eastern red cedar is the host for the caterpillar of the native imperial moth (*Eacles imperialis*). The trees provide shelter and nesting sites for birds. In terms of winter interest, eastern red cedar has gray to reddish-brown bark which exfoliates in thin shreddy strips on mature trees.

The tree is also a host for apple rust fungus which needs two types of plants to complete its life cycle. About seven months after infecting an eastern red cedar, its galls appear on the fruit and young twigs. From depressions in the galls, telial horns (structures for spreading its spores called teliospores) develop. These turn into orange gelatinous growths on the leaves in wet spring weather. They go through cycles of swelling and drying depending on the weather. When these growths are mature, they release spores which then spread to apple and crabapple trees. Here they cause unattractive spots on leaves, which develop into raised orange structures which will eventually produce spores that can infect eastern red cedar which completes the life cycle of the fungus.

For more information go to missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/insects-pests-and-problems/diseases/rusts/cedar-apple-rust

The eastern red cedar produces cedar oil to protect itself from insect attack. It is harvested commercially as an insecticide and insect repellent. The oil is also used in aromatherapy for calming and as a fragrance in soaps and other products.

Besides its properties for insect control, eastern red cedar wood, especially the heart wood, is rot resistant. Among its uses are: outdoor and indoor furniture; fence posts; cedar closets; cedar chests.

Native American tribes historically used poles of juniper wood to demarcate agreed-upon tribal hunting territories and for making bows.



*Imperial moth caterpillar and moth,
Photos from Wikimedia Commons, public domain*



*Early stage cedar apple rust fungus,
photo from USGS BIML*



*Sprouting stage (left) and late stage (right) cedar apple rust fungus,
photo from Wikimedia Commons, public domain*

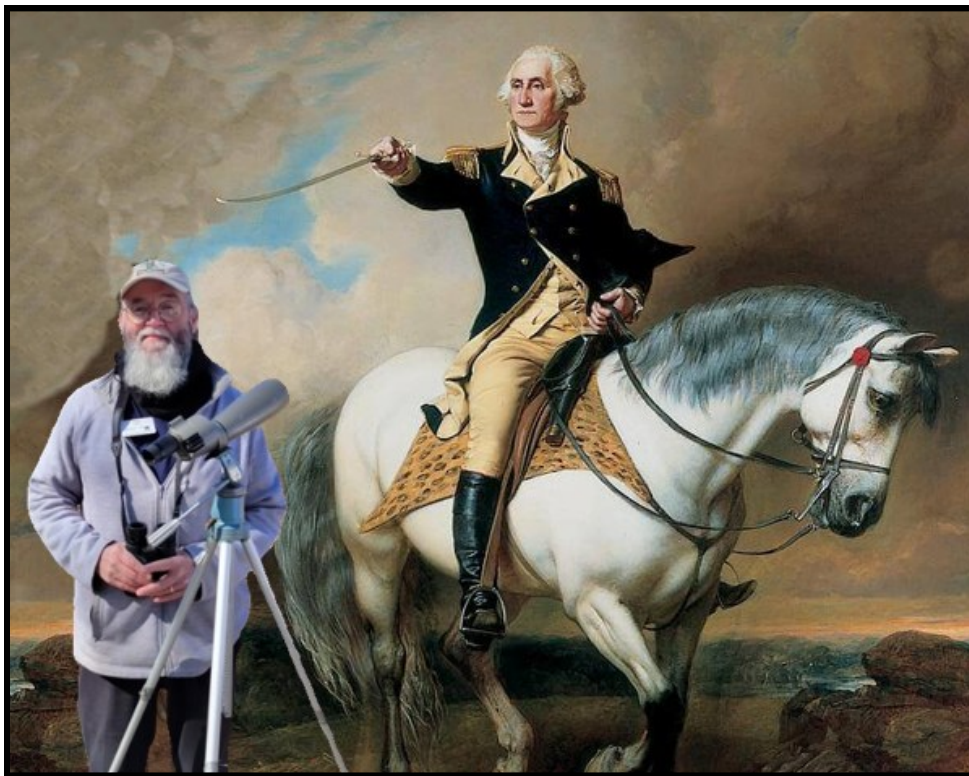
BIRDING (SORT OF) WITH THE GENERAL

By Paul Lauber

They say our waking hours can influence our dreams. So maybe I spend too much time in the Swamp (that's possible). Or maybe I think too much about birding (that's likely). Perhaps I've had too much Freedom 250 (nah, no way). Anyway, here's a recent dream I can recall vividly:

That morning, I was hiking alone on the ridge, looking for songbirds and the hawks that chase them. A front had pushed through the night before, and a fog rolled up the spine of the Watchungs. As I rounded the trail, there General Washington stood, scanning the Plainfields with his spyglass, his staff by his side.

"Colonel Hamilton", the General said calmly,



Washington Challenging a Time Traveler; painting by John Faed, 1856

"please inquire as to this man's intentions".

Hamilton approached me warily. "What is your business sir?"

"Me? ...no business really; I'm just birding."

"What is 'birding'?"

I tried to explain, but was quickly cut-off.

"What outfit are you with?"

"Outfit?" I stammered. "... I'm with the *Friends*."

"Your attire does not befit a Quaker, sir".

"No, no.....I'm with the Friends of Great Swamp". I

knew this sounded suspicious, so I tried to explain. "We're a volunteer conservation organization; we're also a non-profit 501-c3, if that helps". It didn't.

"That godforsaken Swamp has friends?" Hamilton quipped dryly.

With that, the General motioned his aides-de-camp to gather around. For a big man with legendary gravitas, he was a surprisingly low talker. Unfurling a map, the General began:

"As officers in the Continental Army, you are aware that the British continue to reinforce their arsenal in the Port of New York. After considerable forethought, I have determined to establish our encampment at Morristown.

"The ridge on which we now stand is part of the Watchung Mountain chain; it extends north-east for 40 miles. These mountains have natural gaps, and I have ordered these gaps defended by Jersey militia. West of these mountains, Great Swamp forms an impregnable barrier; the British can never advance their cannon over such terrain.

"Gentlemen, the Watchung Mountains and Great Swamp stand between Morristown and New York. With the blessings of Providence, our works at Morristown will be shielded from enemy attack."

When the General spoke, people listened. Pointing at me, Hamilton broke the silence.

"This man is a spy. His spectacles are marked 'GERMANY'. This man is in league with the Hessians!"

Insulted, I pushed back. "Listen Alexander...um, Colonel sir....

these are Zeiss binoculars. In the future, lots of birders have pricey binocs, and we're *not* Hessian spies".

"What are 'binocs'?" Hamilton shot back rudely.

Just then, I was about to tell Hamilton that, one day, Americans will drop a mortgage payment to watch a Broadway musical in his honor. I thought better of it; we were already off to a shaky start.

"This man is an out-of-uniform spy", Hamilton bristled, "I demand his immediate arrest".

The General remained stoic, and of course had the

last word. “Colonel Hamilton, is it your belief the enemy would employ this...bird watcher...in espionage?”

With that, the General looked down at me dismissively, and his staff shared a hearty guffaw. Even in the 18th century, the boss’s jokes were somehow funnier.

With a nod, the General directed me to step aside. “If you are indeed a specter from the future, then inform me of our fortunes in gaining independence”.

“You guys are unstoppable”, I offered enthusiastically, “and Colonel Hamilton will create the greatest economy the world has ever known. He’s considered a genius”.

In a rare display of emotion, the General raised an eyebrow. Hamilton was just 22, and the General had a hard time believing him a genius, economic or otherwise.

The General continued: “Tell me... to what industry

is your outfit engaged at Great Swamp?”

“Well General, the Friends do a lot of things....build boardwalks and observation blinds, maintain trails and gardens, provide conservation programs and education, restore habitat and control invasive plants... that sort of thing”.

The General mulled this over, then cut to the chase. “Are any of these volunteer activities inclined to aid or abet the enemy?”

“No chance”, I replied confidently. “***All the Friends are Patriots!***”

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

When I woke up, I felt privileged to have met “*The Indispensable Man*” himself!

Too much Freedom 250? Nah, no way!

HAPPY 250th, USA!!!

CAMOUFLAGE CHALLENGE

Can you find the female American woodcock and her three chicks? Answer on page 14



US Fish & Wildlife Northeast Region

MOUNTAINS, MARSHES, AND SWAMPS KEPT WASHINGTON'S ARMY SAFE

By Pat Wells

From December 25, 1776 to January 3, 1777, George Washington and his army bested the British and their Hessian allies three times: twice in Trenton and once in Princeton. These gutsy battles reversed the direction in which the Revolution had been going. From the Battle of Princeton, the Army headed to Morristown to spend the winter.

There were several reasons why Washington chose Morristown, but one of the most important was its location in a natural fortress made of mountains and swamps.

The British were wintering in New York City, Staten Island, and the New Brunswick-Perth Amboy area.

It is easy to see on this map, how the troops in Morristown were protected by the Watchung Mountains to the east and south. The New Jersey Highlands, ridge after ridge of mountains, fill all the area to the north and west of Morristown, completing the fortress wall.

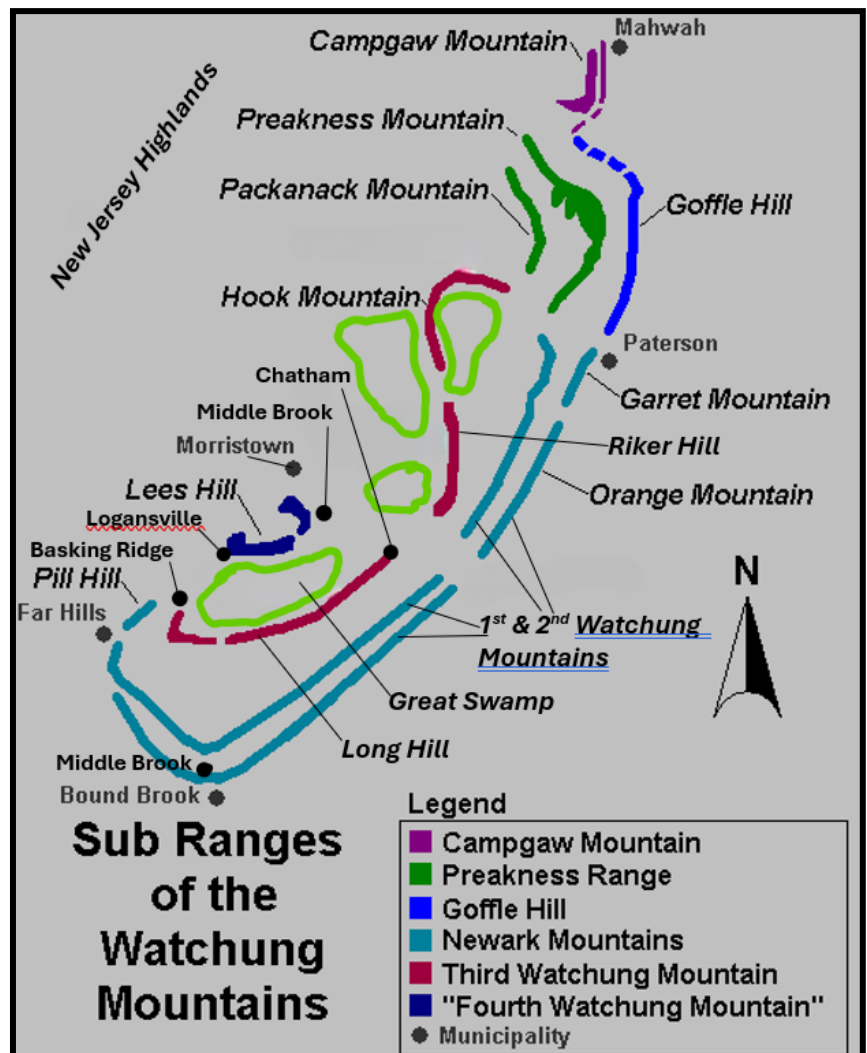
If the enemy had managed to penetrate one of the gaps in the ranges, it would have been bogged down by the second line of defense: swamps and marshes. The southern most, Great Swamp, is embraced by Long Hill, running from Chatham to Basking Ridge, and Lees Hill, running from New Vernon to Logansville. Logansville is the hamlet of houses just east of the Wood Duck Way entrance to the Refuge.

In May 1777, Washington moved his army down to the valley between the first and second Watchung ranges at Middlebrook (near Bound Brook today) where it was easy to use the vantage point overlooking the plains and coastline to the south and east.

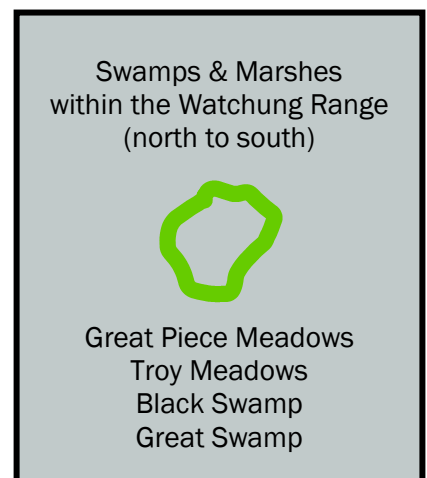
The area was such a good site, that Washington brought his army back for their winter encampment of 1778-79. The British tried to entice Washington out of the mountains by parading their troops below the American encampment. Washington declined to engage them, so they left.

Then in 1779, Washington returned to Morristown for another winter. The British had cleared out of New Jersey and were holed up in New York City. Jockey Hollow, just southwest of Morristown, was chosen for the encampment.

Sadly, there was no way to know there would be 28 snowstorms dropping a total of 6 feet of snow during the winter of 1779-80 making the Valley Forge encampment the previous winter look like a picnic.



Map from Wikimedia Commons, with additions by Pat Wells, public domain



THE SWAMP AWAKENS *(Continued from page 1)*

for warmer weather to show themselves. Spring ephemerals are plants that appear in the woodlands before the trees leaf out. As the weather heats up the flowers, then their leaves fade and they are gone.

Explore the Nature Detective Trail for trout lilies (*Erythronium americanum*) in early spring. They are often found in colonies in moist woodland. Their two green leaves are splotched with brown in the pattern of brown trout. They are small, but their bright yellow flowers are eye-catching. The nodding flower lasts for about two weeks, giving bees time to find the six brown stamens that extend from the flower.



Trout lily

The trout lily produces a seed capsule that will split open releasing several seeds. Some of these will be picked up by ants and planted in their colony. It takes about seven years for a seed to germinate, but once a plant is produced it will regrow from a corm each spring for many years.



*Trout lily bee, photo by bob15noble/
iNaturalist (CC BY-NC limited license)*

Among the bees that are attracted to the trout lily is the specialist trout lily bee (*Andrena erythrini*). This large mining bee digs tunnels in the soil. The female lays an egg, deposits a ball of trout lily pollen, then seals the chamber, lays another egg, and repeats the process until the tunnel is full. The eggs will hatch in a few days. The larvae will consume the pollen, but remain underground until the next trout lily season when they emerge as adults.

Queen bumblebees also feed on trout lilies. The queen is the bumblebee to survive the winter, so she needs rich food for the energy needed to start a new colony. Other short and long tongued bees will also visit trout lilies.

The spring beauty can be found in profusion in early spring along the sides of the tree-lined section of Pleasant Plains Road. The fine white petals mark the landing zone for pollinators. The flowers last for about a month, closing at night or on cloudy days.

Among the 23 or more different pollinators that visit spring beauties is the spring beauty bee (*Andrena erigenidae*). Like the trout lily bee, it is a miner, creating the same kind of in-ground incubator. It will leave a ball of spring beauty pollen for its young.

Both trout lily and spring beauty corms are edible. Spring beauty tubers are called fairy potatoes in some regions.



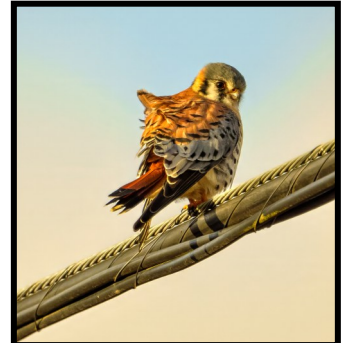
Spring beauties surrounded by poison ivy

EVEN BIRDS HAVE BAD HAIR DAYS



The wind can be tough on a bird's ego. It's hard to look dignified when your feathers are blowing all over!

Above left: Northern harrier by Robert Lin
 Above right: Bald-headed eagle by Robert Lin
 Left : Blue jay by Steve Weiner
 Right: Male kestrel by Steve Weiner



CAMOUFLAGE CHALLENGE ANSWER



The American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) is best seen during its courtship displays in the Refuge's open meadows in March and April. The rest of the time, they disappear into the dry leaves and twigs of the open, moist habitat they favor.

They are often described as potato-shaped. The 2 1/2 inch-long bill is designed for probing the soil for worms.

The brown and pink splotched eggs are laid on the ground in April and hatch in 19 to 22 days. The chicks leave the nest almost immediately. Within 5 weeks, the chicks are nearly full grown and self-sufficient.

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.

Friends of Great Swamp NWR
32 Pleasant Plains Road
Basking Ridge NJ 07920

Non-Profit Org.
PrSrt Std.
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 407
Chester NJ 07930



THE SWAMP SCENE MARCH 2026

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.



Printed on recycled paper