



# The Swamp Scene

friends of great swamp national wildlife refuge

ISSUE EIGHTY-ONE  
JULY 2026

## Highlights

|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Swamp Diary: A Special Visitor              | 1  |
| President's Message                         | 2  |
| Great Swamp Trees Fit for Your Neighborhood | 4  |
| These Have To Be Fake!                      | 6  |
| A Rare Sighting                             | 7  |
| Camouflage Challenge                        | 7  |
| Volunteer Appreciation Event                | 8  |
| 5-Star Review                               | 11 |
| Great Swamp & the American Revolution       | 12 |
| 2026-27 Duck Stamp                          | 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 Zaleski

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 November 2026  
Issue October 15, 2026  
PandMWells@gmail.com

## SWAMP DIARY: A SPECIAL VISITOR

By Peggy Wilson, Volunteer

It was a Tuesday afternoon, April 28th when a very colorful man and woman came into the Visitors Center. The woman was a translator for Manari Ushigua Santi. She explained that this Indigenous man from Ecuador was wearing his regalia. These traditional and ceremonial colorful pieces of clothing are sacred expressions of cultural identity, heritage and prayer. Manari is a forest defender, traditional healer, spiritual and political leader of the Sapara Nation in the Amazon Ecuadorian.

Manari was born in the Amazon Rainforest and his family were always traveling up and down the Conambo River by canoe, learning from nature. As he grew, Manari was always learning from the forest and his father. His father prepared him to become a person who understood the jungle but could also relate to the world outside.

Manari has been actively involved in the indigenous movement of Ecuador since 1999 and has participated in the "UN Climate Summit" and the "UN Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights" with the purpose of raising awareness about the threat to his homeland. They had just been at the "United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues" covering health, human rights and financing for Indigenous People.

As a defender of indigenous rights Manari has managed to conserve more than 276,000



Manari and Peggy in the Visitor Center library.

(continued on page 3)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Tom Gula, President, Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge*

The cold, ice, and snow of the past winter are now but a memory, and the arrival of spring at Great Swamp NWR brought with it, in a phrase I saw online, a “vibrant ecological awakening.” Nowhere was that more apparent than at the Wildlife Observation Center (WOC). This is where the wetland habitat restoration project took place from January until late April. The WOC reopened to the public on April 20th.



*Pond at bridge to Sportsmen's Blind before restoration. Little open water remained. Photo by Robert Lin*

By the first of May, Friends volunteers recorded 1,110 visitors at the WOC. The public truly missed walking the variety of trails, and are now enjoying the renewed area of open water created by the restoration.



*Restored pond at bridge to Sportsmen's Blind a few months after restoration. Photo by Tom Gula*

We have lots of Friends volunteers to thank for their help during the restoration project, including Robert Lin, Tom Cartwright, Judi DiMaio, and Kathy Woodward.

I recently happened across a scientific report published in June 2019 (available at [www.nature.com/scientificreports](http://www.nature.com/scientificreports)). The title of the report says it all: *Spending at Least 120 Minutes a Week in Nature Is Associated with Good Health and Well-Being*. So if you haven't been to the WOC since it reopened, stop by when you can. More contact with nature almost always makes for a better day.



*Pond at bridge to Sportsmen's Blind immediately after restoration. Photo by Robert Lin*

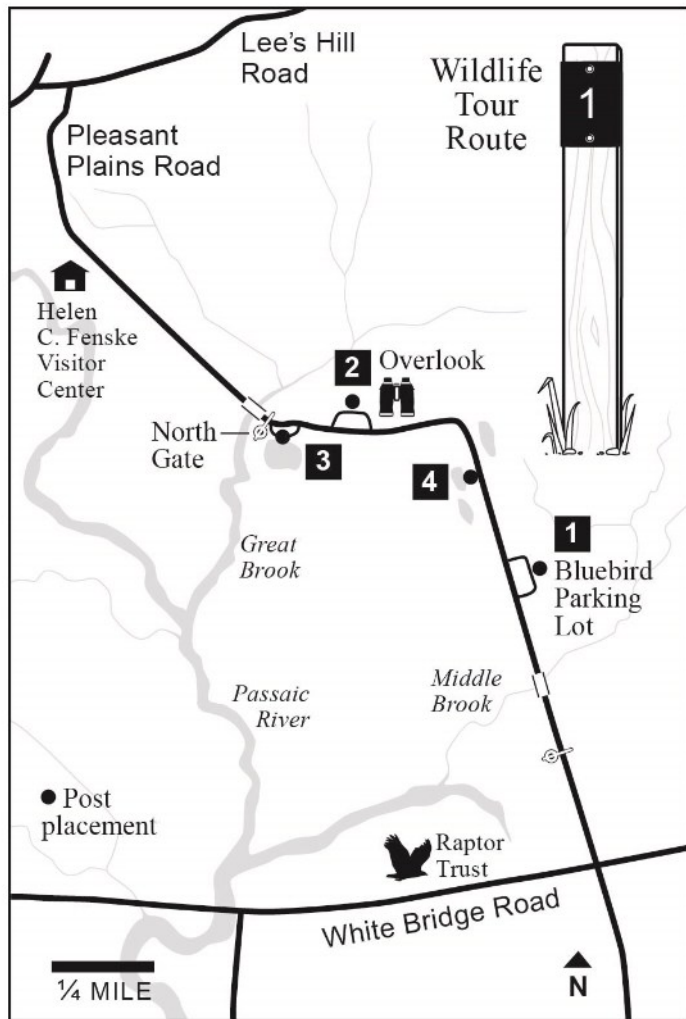
For those visitors who enjoy the natural beauty of Great Swamp while driving down Pleasant Plains Road, the Friends recently updated the four Wildlife Tour Route signs installed in 2003 at four sites along the road. Located at the Bluebird Parking lot, the small Friends Pond along the road, the Overlook, and the large pond near the North Gate, several of the signs had gone missing, and the remaining signs were damaged by the elements. A printed brochure is available at the Visitor Center, but each post



## WILDLIFE TOUR ROUTE

### Wildlife Tour Route Pleasant Plains Road Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

Signs are numbered for each stop and shown on the map with a dot (•). They are mounted on wooden posts.



The Wildlife Tour Route is open seven days a week from sunrise to sunset for automobiles, bicycles, horseback riding, walking, and dogs (on leash).

now contains a working QR code that can be scanned by a smart phone to access a copy of the brochure. Thanks to volunteers Dave Katz and Tom Cartwright for constructing and installing the new sign posts.



Dave Katz and Tom Cartwright with newly installed Wildlife Tour Route marker. Photo by Dave Katz.

### SWAMP DIARY: A SPECIAL VISITOR (Continued from page 1)

acres of primary forest threatened by extractive industries.

Manari is the co-founder of the Naku Center, a new economic model project to preserve Sapara culture and forest, where he does lectures and healing ceremonies. Naku Center is designed to support people from the modern world to connect to their spirit and respect all life, visible and invisible, so the story of humanity can continue.

By the end of their visit, they had explored every room of the Visitor Center and asked many questions. Manari loved Great Swamp, the trails, a picture with black bear and the turtle tee shirt he purchased. As they left, the translator said that Manari will see us next trip! Then this gentle man gave me a big hug!

## GREAT SWAMP TREES FIT FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Lori Sorensen

[Editor's note: The loss of habitat surrounding the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and other protected areas affects the ability of wildlife and native flora to survive. Doug Tallamy, co-founder of Homegrown National Park, encourages us to add our own properties to a nation-wide park system by simply planting more native vegetation.

This is the second article we have published from Lori Sorensen, who is a graduate of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Environmental Stewardship Program.]

**W**ildlife needs our help. The native trees in Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge support it. Many of these trees are also in garden and neighborhood settings in northern New Jersey, and they provide necessary food and shelter for wildlife.

When choosing a tree, be aware of plant culture, possible problems, and whether they are poisonous to humans or animals. When shopping for these trees, be sure to get the correct species since there are many non-native and even invasive trees on the market. Here is information on some of the trees found in both the Refuge and its neighborhoods.

### Red Maple

Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is a medium-sized deciduous tree with a rounded to oval crown known for its beautiful fall color. Its leaves have three principal lobes and sometimes two additional smaller lobes at the base of the leaf. The leaves are yellowish green to medium green above and pale gray green to white below. In the fall the leaves often turn to a brilliant red. The fall foliage varies between trees and can vary year by year based on growing conditions. The foliage is usually red but can turn to shades of yellow or orange.

The fruit of the red maple is a two-winged samara ("helicopter"). The helicopter shape aids in seed dispersal by the wind.

It can be used in the landscape as a specimen tree or shade tree. Since it has a shallow root system it shouldn't be planted too close to a driveway, sidewalk or foundation.

It is a host plant for many butterflies and moths, including the cecropia moth. Its flowers are an early nectar source that is extremely important for bees when little else is available.



*Acer rubrum*, Johan Carl Krauss, circa 1802

### American Holly

American holly (*Ilex opaca*) is a broadleaf evergreen tree which reaches a height of 15-30' in garden situations, and up to 30-50' in the wild. The leaves are broadly elliptic or ovate, and shallowly lobed with sharp spiny teeth on the tips of the lobes and the leaf blades. The leaves are shiny yellowish green or green above and paler and duller below.

A male tree flowering at the same time as the female flowers is needed for fertilization. Attractive red berries ripen in the fall on fertilized female trees; this is the kind of holly whose branches and berries are used for Christmas decorations.

In the landscape it can be used as a specimen, foundation planting, hedge or as part of a group. It provides winter interest with its berries and evergreen leaves.





*Ilex opaca*, John Evelyn Sylva, 1786

Many birds eat its berries, including cedar waxwing, northern flicker, northern mockingbird and northern cardinal. It supplies winter shelter to birds. Butterflies and moths use it as a host plant, including spring azure and Henry's elfin butterfly.

### Flowering Dogwood

Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is a graceful small tree that blooms from April to May before its leaves come out. Its green oval leaves are between 3" and 6" long.

What appear to be the petals of flowers are bracts which are a type of modified leaf. These surround the inconspicuous tiny yellowish green flowers. The bracts are usually white but flowering dogwood forma rubra (*Cornus florida* f. *rubra*) has pink bracts. (A "forma" is a plant that has differences from the straight species that are considered very minor and so don't warrant being called a variety.)

In the fall dogwood berries mature to red, and its foliage turns attractive shades of red.

Stressed trees are susceptible to problems, including dogwood anthracnose, a serious fungal disease. Problems are less likely if the tree is planted in a sunny site with good air circulation and fast draining soil to allow quick drying. Straight species trees are sometimes better for wildlife and usually better for genetic diversity. However, the dogwood cultivar 'Appalachian Spring' (which was found growing wild in Maryland) is resistant to dogwood anthracnose, which can make this a useful choice for the garden.

In landscaping it can be used as a specimen tree or as part of a grouping.

Flowering dogwood is an important tree for birds, native bees, and is a host plant for moths and butterflies, including the spring azure.



*Cornus florida*, J.H. Colen, 1847

## THESE HAVE TO BE FAKE!!!

By Pat Wells, co-editor, *Swamp Scene*; fabulous photos by Steve Weiner, volunteer

I take great pleasure in the incredible photographs our Great Swamp photographers take with their long-distance lenses and high-speed, rapid-fire exposure cameras. Some take my breath away. But sometimes I just have to say, “Wait a minute! That can’t be real!”. Let me show you a few examples.

First we have a bluejay who has quite obviously been shot from a cannon. Raptors may do this diving vertically at prey, but a corvid going horizontally? I want to see this frame before it was cropped. Who lit the fuse?



Next is supposedly a hooded merganser in flight. According to Christopher Dodds (who I don't know) of Nature Photography Blog, mergansers are, “small, fast, twitchy, and seem to enjoy changing direction just as you think you've got things lined up.” What I see here is a duck in serious raptor mode. I'm claiming taxidermy. Look at those gold button eyes. Got to be fake.

Lastly is a photo of a male wood duck. This is without a doubt a fiberglass decoy painted up as a wood duck. I've only ever seen wood ducks as models and this sure looks like the painted decoys in the Visitor Center. Same artist, I'm sure.

With some high-test fishing line attached and a friend with a strong arm (Paul? Robert?), I'll bet you could get enough speed to get this guy aloft for a great shot.

Now, I could be wrong about all of this. But these people get up at appalling hours in the morning to watch birds. It's got to do something to your sense of the ridiculous. Just saying.





## A RARE SIGHTING

April 15, 2026 e-mail from Matt Heiss:

Today during pervasive invasives, I came across something so wild. I was so surprised by what I saw, I went back to the parking lot and picked up Paul to have a credible witness. A white ibis!!!

I only see these guys south at the Jersey shore.

I read online now that the population is high since 2020 in NJ, but still rare for our area.

Paul Lauber followed up: Note: on the official Fish & Wildlife Service bird checklist for Great Swamp (Boyle & Byland, 2009), listed as "accidental" (i.e. *having been seen only once or twice on the refuge*). Let's hope more show up and start breeding! (Photo by Matt Heiss )



## CAMOUFLAGE CHALLENGE #1

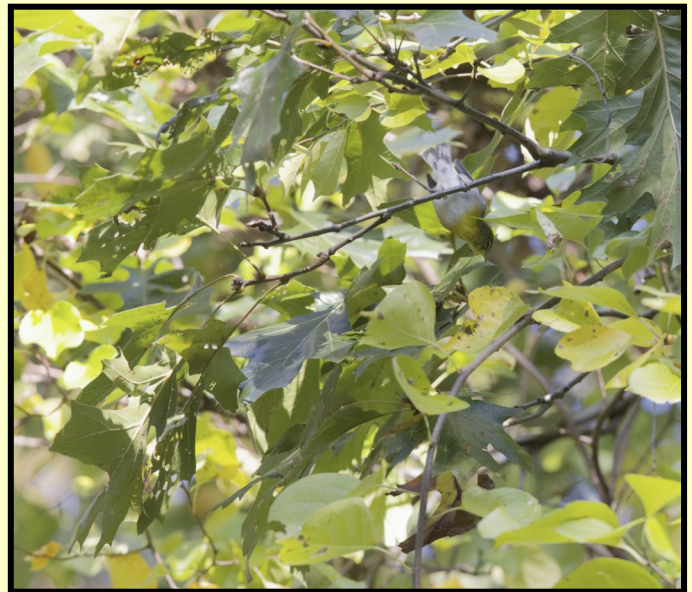
Find the northern parula warbler, which is often difficult to see in the treetops where it feeds on insects. *Setophaga americana* is only 4 1/2" in length and its bluish-grey plumage helps it disappear into the foliage.

The male's call is a loud buzz, so you may get to hear it even if you can't see it.



Parula by  
Henry Nehrling  
1893

Photo by Robert Lin  
Answer on page 14



## CAMOUFLAGE CHALLENGE #2

Can you find the immature false bittern (*Botaurus kodrichus*)? The false bittern is rarely seen or heard, usually requiring a good imagination to locate and identify.

Climate change has increased the frequency and severity of storms in the area of the Great Swamp. *Botaurus kodrichus*, also known as the storm bittern, is therefore more likely to occur here.

Little is known about their feeding, reproductive, and nesting habits. They are not known to be migratory, although strong winds may carry them great distances.

Answer on page 14



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

*By Tom Gula, President; Photos by Dave Katz, Board of Directors*

The annual Volunteer Recognition event was held in the Visitor Center Pavilion on Wednesday, June 3rd, with both Refuge staff and Friends volunteers in attendance on a beautiful spring day.

Mike Horne, Manager of the Lenape National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and Anna Bisson, Deputy Refuge Leader, gave opening remarks. Volunteers reaching various milestones were recognized for their achievements. In closing, Mike Horne noted a cumulative total of over 12,758 volunteer hours - and that "every volunteer makes a difference, and every volunteer counts."

A big thank you to the entire Volunteers Coordination Team for organizing the event: Judi DiMaio, Paul Lauber, Meg Zaleski, Kathy Woodward, and Randi Emmer (for the excellent luncheon).



*The fabulous cake*

### NOTABLE VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

#### 100 Hour Name Tags

Edward Berberich, Sue Randall, Lori Sorenson

#### 150 Hours

Peter Clark, Ernie Letteri, Peggy Wilson

#### 250 Hours

Lee Cleary, John Dekens, George Fricke, Gail Vollherbst

#### 500 Hours

Susan Katz

#### 750 Hours

Pete Axelrod, Meg Zaleski

#### 1,000 Hours

Helen Hoffman, Lynne Marquis, Johnny Rousch

#### 1,500 Hours

Robert Lin

#### 2,500 Hours

Dave Katz

#### 3,000 Hours

Barry Bowman, Paul Lauber

#### 4,000 Hours

Tom Cartwright, Walter Willwerth

#### 6,000 Hours

Terry Kulmane

#### 14,000 Hours

Kathy Woodward

#### 15,000 and 16,000 Hours

Randi Emmer

### Staff—Great Swamp NWR and Lenape Complex

Mike Horne, Refuge Manager  
Anna Harris Bisson, Deputy Refuge Manager  
Jared Green, Visitor Services Manager  
Robert Bradley, Maintenance

### List of active volunteers with cumulative hours through March 31, 2026.

Pete Axelrod (784)  
Kate Bartley (76)  
Jack Beighley (211)  
Jane Bell (1,362)  
Edward Berberich (113)  
Barry Bowman (3,122)  
John Breault (1,104)  
Amy Brilhart (50)  
Lee Brush (809)  
Lynda Brush (200)





*The line for the delicious lunch. (Left to right) Kathy Woodward, Meg Zaleski, Randi Emmer, Celeste Fondaco, Lori Sorensen.*



*Judi DiMaio*

Steve Carroll (21)  
 Tom Cartwright (4,180)  
 Peter Clark (165)  
 Lee Cleary (391)  
 John Dekens (260)  
 Barb De Shaw (12)  
 Jim DeTizio (1,818)  
 Judi DiMaio (7,782)  
 Jack Donohue (1,966)  
 Karen Donohue (1,288)  
 Randi Emmer (16,266)  
 Corinne Errico (1,424)  
 Robert Errico (34)  
 Nancy Fellicito (1,569)  
 Lisa Florio (187)  
 Celeste Fondaco (204)  
 Bob Franco (227)  
 George Fricke (255)  
 Jim Gilbert (62)  
 Lynda Goldschein (189)  
 Steve Gruber (2,832)  
 Tom Gula (3,323)  
 Jim Halsey (1,877)  
 Mary Beth Hansbury (544)



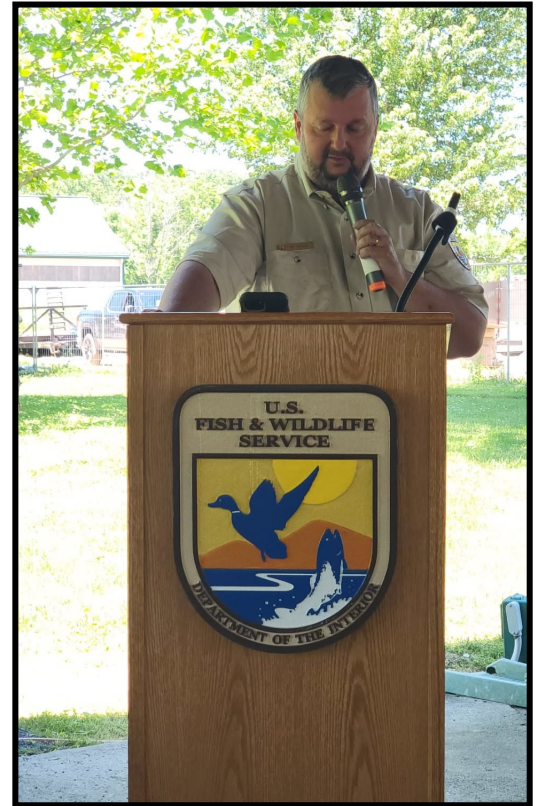
*Jarod Green, Visitor Services Manager, presents Sue Randall with her 100-hour name badge..*

*(continued on page 10)*

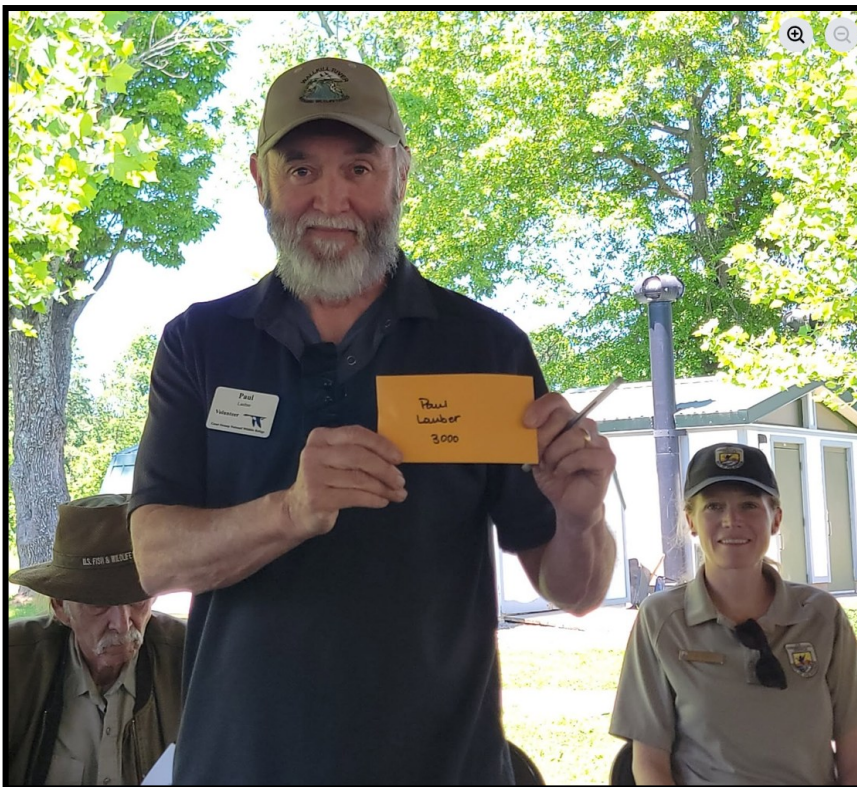


## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT *(Continued from page 9)*

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Anne Hebenstreit (1,036)  | Robert Lin (1,595)       |
| Terry Heide (35)          | Patrick Lundrigan (35)   |
| Matt Heiss (5,739)        | Peg Lundrigan (444)      |
| Greg Henderson (2,612)    | Cathy Malok (61)         |
| Stephen Herdman (2,142)   | Lynne Marquis (1,060)    |
| Richard Hiserodt (2,475)  | Mary Masilamani (147)    |
| Helen Hoffman (1,015)     | Betty Mills (1,989)      |
| Dave Katz (2,620)         | Evelyn Morton (167)      |
| Susan Katz (561)          | Bridget Mracek (929)     |
| Kathleen C. Kennedy (222) | Jim Mulvery (1,230)      |
| Gerard Kirwan (84)        | Greg Murphy (465)        |
| Henry Knoll-Finn (33)     | Ruth Nahm (388)          |
| Bill Koch (786)           | Charlie Neiss (497)      |
| Lynn Kodrich (23)         | Carolyn Nestor Cook (23) |
| Ivan Kossak (42)          | Nikki Nobles (45)        |
| Murali Krishna (204)      | Bonnie O'Connor (147)    |
| Terry Kulmane (6,075)     | Brian Osborn (205)       |
| Paul Lauber (3,166)       | Claudia Osborn (263)     |
| Nancy Lennon (346)        | Peter Osborn (273)       |
| Ernie Lettieri (188)      | Tom Ostrand (288)        |



*Mike Horne, Refuge Manager*



*Paul Lauber receiving his 3000-hour pin. Flanked by Robert Bradkey, Maintenance, and Anna Harris Bisson, Deputy Refuge Manager*

Michael Parziale (64)  
 Candace Paska (1,452)  
 Guy Percival (44)  
 Jennifer Percival (38)  
 Christine Pirog (347)  
 Pegg Ponzio (45)  
 Sue Randall (131)  
 Johnny Roush (1,234)  
 Elizabeth Ryan (51)  
 Nancy Schenck (4,426)  
 Vicki Schwartz (23)  
 Allene Shapiro (11)  
 Dorothy Smullen (4,287)  
 Denise Soppas (133)  
 Lori Sorensen (123)  
 Nancy Strum (658)  
 Olga Tarasenko (81)  
 Elaine Taub (1,112)  
 Mark Thompson (9)  
 Gail Vollherbst (274)



Mary Jane Walsh (722)  
 Steve Weiner (35)  
 Martha Wells (459)  
 Patricia Wells (612)  
 Elaine Weyuker (242)  
 Dennis White ((349)  
 Barbara Whitmore (1,263)  
 Elizabeth Williams (65)  
 Kathleen Willwerth (992)  
 Walter Willwerth (4,108)  
 Peggy Wilson (193)  
 Samantha Wilson (25)  
 Carl Woodward (955)  
 Kathy Woodward (14,881)  
 Meg Zaleski (784)



*The 2025-2026 headstart turtles came for the event, ready to be released. Photo by Pat Wells.*

#### A FIVE-STAR GOOGLE REVIEW

It's always a pleasure to receive a "thank you" for volunteering. Some people take the time to write a thank you note and then give a glowing public review as well.

Corinne Errico received a special note from Kristina from the Agora Homeschool Co-op after their guided tour in May. Kristina wrote, "Our families had an absolutely wonderful time on the field trip, and we're still talking about everything we learned."

"Your volunteers and tour guides were outstanding—so knowledgeable, engaging, and patient with our curious group of kids (and their siblings!) Everyone felt welcomed and left inspired. We are already looking forward to visiting again."

"Thank you also for your encouraging words about our homeschooling journey. It means a great deal coming from someone who clearly cares so much about helping children connect with nature and learning."

"Please extend our heartfelt thanks to all your volunteers. We feel fortunate to have had such a special experience at the Great Swamp."

Warmly, Kristina



Kristina  
8 reviews



★★★★★ 2 months ago

We had an absolutely wonderful experience at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge! From the moment we arrived, the beauty and tranquility of the place were breathtaking. The trails were well-maintained, the wildlife viewing was incredible, and it was the perfect setting for a memorable field trip. A huge thank you to Corinne and all the amazing field trip volunteers! Corinne was fantastic — so knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and great with the group. She made the entire experience educational, engaging, and fun for everyone. The volunteers were equally outstanding: patient, helpful, and clearly passionate about sharing their love for nature and conservation. They went above and beyond to make sure our visit was special.

This was more than just a field trip — it was a highlight of our year. If you're considering visiting the Great Swamp, especially with a group or for an educational outing, I cannot recommend it highly enough. Thanks again to the entire team for making it such a positive and inspiring day! Highly recommend!



## THE GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By Jack Donohue

During the years of the American Revolution, the basin we know today as the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (GSNWR) was a dense mix of swamp woodlands, hardwood ridges, cattail marshes, and grasslands approximately 7,500-acres in size. While the area was wild and largely inaccessible, a few specific human elements defined its immediate surroundings.

One of these was the 700-acre estate of General William Alexander, known as Lord Stirling, who rose as high as third in rank to General George Washington.

With dense, impenetrable timber and wetlands, the Great Swamp acted as a wild, natural sanctuary and refuge where local residents could evade British patrols.

Only about nine miles from the Continental Army's 1779-80 winter encampment in Jockey Hollow, the high ground around the Great Swamp provided natural defense barriers for George Washington's troops.

During the American Revolution, the seeds of revolt were everywhere. These seeds took root and eventually blossomed into freedom from Great Britain and our country becoming the United States of America. Today, near-by Jockey Hollow is a visual remnant from 1776.



Map #104, A Road from Kimble's to Chatham, Robert Erskine & Simeon de Witt, 1780, New York Historical Society  
Shows roads surrounding Great Swamp, Passaic River, and location of Lord Stirling's estate, The Sycamores.



Another remnant from the days of the American Revolution is the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge which looks much like it did in 1776. The seeds of the plants that existed during the American Revolution took root, and its descendants have blossomed into an 8,000-acre refuge that is now carefully managed and permanently preserved.

Today, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is the home of forested wetlands, marshes, grasslands and meadows, mature forests and aquatic ecosystems. It also acts as an ecological filter that filters drinking water and mitigates flooding while providing crucial feeding, bedding and resting habitats for hundreds of species including migratory birds and endangered amphibians.

I'm sure our ancestors would be proud that their descendants recognized and cherished the importance of protecting our natural resources for future generations to cherish.

[Editor's note: To learn more about the remarkable Robert Erskine, Washington's Surveyor-General, go to <https://allthingsliberty.com/2019/12/robert-erskine-surveyor-general-of-the-continental-army/>.



Map 104, A with sites labeled as on original map or by today's names for orientation. (Decoded by Pat Wells.)  
[digitalcollections.nyhistory.org/items/137132-road-kembles-chatham-no-104-robert-erskine-frs-geogr-us-and-assistants](https://digitalcollections.nyhistory.org/items/137132-road-kembles-chatham-no-104-robert-erskine-frs-geogr-us-and-assistants)



## 2026-27 DUCK STAMP

By Martha Wells, co-editor, *Swamp Scene*

The Federal Duck Stamp, officially, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, was introduced in 1934. Its purpose is to provide funding for the acquisition, preservation, and conservation of wetlands as waterfowl habitat in support of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929.

That first year the stamp was designed by Jay “Ding” Darling, who was a Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist, helped found the National Wildlife Federation, and designed of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Blue Goose logo seen on the boundary signs around Great Swamp NWR today.

In each following year the stamp was designed by a different artist, until 1949. It then became a public event, an annual art contest to choose the design of the year’s stamp. Any American artist can enter. Each year there is a different list of no more than five eligible species of waterfowl that the artists can choose as their subject. The contest has become an exciting event.

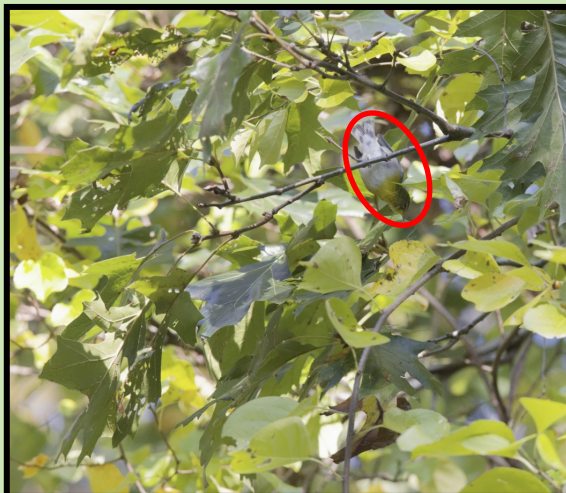
There were 290 entries in the most recent contest. The winner was Jim Hautman with his painting of three flying buffleheads. He is one of the three Hautman brothers- Jim, Robert, and Joe. They are famous for their first prize wins, now with sixteen among them since 1990. You can see their work at [artbarbarians.com](http://artbarbarians.com).

Hunters of migratory waterfowl are required to purchase an annual Duck Stamp as a hunting permit, but anyone who cares about helping to support our National Wildlife Refuge System, can also buy one.

The 2026-2027 Stamp is now available in the Helen Fenske Visitor Center Nature Shop. 98% of every dollar from the purchase of a Duck Stamp goes to the conservation of over 6 million acres of federal wetland habitat. Since 1934, \$1.3 billion has been raised by the sale of Duck Stamps!



## CAMOUFLAGE CHALLENGE ANSWERS



#1 The parula is bug hunting head down.

#2 This young false bittern is not yet capable of flight, so it is attempting to hide itself by stretching its head and neck upright to imitate the surrounding vegetation. However, since it is by the open roadside, the strategy doesn't work. Instead it looks like a fallen branch.





## 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](http://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 JULY 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