

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

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January-March 2017



Teaching Russian Cranes How to Fly

by Matthew C. Perry

On September 6, 2012, the Washington Post and several national TV stations reported that the flamboyant Russian President, Vladimir Putin, had put on a white costume with a glove that resembled a bird's bill, and flew a motorized hang-glider to lead a group of captive-raised Siberian cranes on their winter migration to Central Asia. To most of the world observers this was just another one of Putin's stunts to draw attention to himself. However, to folks familiar with the Patuxent long-term program

assisting whooping cranes to migrate, it had a much deeper significance. The motorized hang-gliding technique with an ultra-light plane has been commonly used for many years by Patuxent staff, in collaboration with Operation Migration, to assist parentless captive-reared cranes in migration.

Patuxent helped establish the Russian migration program in 1991 when they donated a male sandhill crane and shipped it to Russia to become part of their breeding program. The Russians had requested a crane from Patuxent and our Director, Mr. Hal O'Connor, was willing to comply due to his previous role of international exchanges with Russian and US scientists. The

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Chair's Comments Many Reasons to Celebrate

By Jeanne Latham,
Chair of Friends of Patuxent



We have many reasons to celebrate. This has been a successful year for the Friends - challenging, exciting and fun. We hosted the Night on the Wild Side in March, which was a wonderful outreach event to the community. And several folks joined the Friends.

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Tight quarters, but I am okay!!!

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An Open Letter of Appreciation to the Staff, Interns, Volunteers and Friends of Patuxent

By Dennis Hartnett, Environmental Education Coordinator

As most of you already know, I will be retiring as a U. S. Fish and Wildlife staff person early in 2017. I am writing this letter to share my appreciation to everyone for the wonderful experiences I have had at Patuxent.

First of all, I want to thank Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen, for his help and encouragement while I was re-vamping the environmental education program at Patuxent. Brad's leadership and "open door" policy has enabled the staff and volunteers to share their concerns and suggestions with him. I have always considered Brad as both a boss and a friend.

One very special person I would also like to thank is Nell Balzacchino, a former Visitor Services Chief at Patuxent. Nell was a mentor to me when I first started volunteering at the Visitor Center. My first encounter with Nell was at a volunteer appreciation dinner. My wife, Mary Ann, and I sat at the same table with

for students and teachers so they could meet the learning objectives for life and environmental science that were mandated by local school districts.

The one thing I will remember most is how the staff, volunteers, Friends and interns stuck together to make programs and events happen, and to give great customer service to all visitors. The "Patuxent Family" stays united and strong as old members leave and new members come in. Most of all I will miss (other than working with students and teachers) the friendships I developed throughout the years at Patuxent.

Thanks to Everyone!

Nell. Nell and I started talking about what I planned on doing after my retirement from teaching. She asked me if I would consider coming on board as an environmental education volunteer. I have always had a passion for working with students in a natural setting. Nell gave me many opportunities to develop curriculum

Thanks to everyone,
Dennis Hartnett

Friends of Patuxent is published quarterly and can be read online or mailed to our Friends upon request.

Many of the newsletter contributors and other assistants are volunteers. There are regular contributors, however, we welcome and encourage all volunteers and Friends to submit items for the newsletter by sending or bringing them to:

Editor, Friends of Patuxent Newsletter
ATTN: Ross Feldner
11811 Ivanhoe Street
Wheaton, MD 20902

Or email to ross.feldner@verizon.net

All articles submitted to the Friends of Patuxent Newsletter will be reviewed by newsletter staff prior to their publication. We reserve the right to not publish submissions based on length, content or suitability.

Article submission deadlines:

Issue			Issue		
No.	Months	Deadline	No.	Months	Deadline
1	Jan-Mar	December 1	2	Apr-Jun	March 1
3	Jul-Sept	June 1	4	Oct-Dec	September 1

To become a member of the Friends of Patuxent or send a donation, please see "Membership Application" on page 19.

We invite you to join!

Your membership/ contribution helps support the mission and programs at Patuxent



New Board Members for the Friends



Ms. Barbara Richman Kahn



Dr. Lowell Adams



Robert Schroeder



Dale Mangum

The Friends of Patuxent are happy to welcome four new members to the Board. They include Ms. Barbara Richman Kahn, Dr. Lowell Adams, Mr. Robert Schroeder, and Mr. Dale Mangum.

Ms. Barbara Richman Kahn, a native of New York, brings many talents based on her educational background and long career in real estate with The Michael Companies. She graduated from Goucher College with a double major in political science and pre-legal studies, and a minor in international relations. She serves on several other local Boards of non-profit organizations and has a passion for education and the natural outdoor world. On the Friends Board she hopes to combine her passion for education and the outdoors to make Patuxent and the Visitor Center better known in the Maryland/DC area. Her easy-going personality will be a great benefit with these endeavors.

The Friend's Board also welcomes Dr. Lowell Adams. Lowell hails from Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he developed an early interest in wildlife and other natural resources. He earned a Bachelor's degree at Virginia Polytechnic University and then a MS and PhD from Ohio State University. Lowell has recently retired from a long career as a professor at the University of Maryland, where he taught natural resource subjects. He also for many years was a biologist and then president of the Urban

Wildlife Research Center in Ellicott City. Lowell has a long association with Patuxent as a volunteer and then as an advisor of many students who worked at Patuxent as interns. He hopes to increase the interaction of the local colleges and universities with Patuxent. His knowledge of urban wildlife will be a great asset to the Board and the Patuxent community.

Robert Schroeder recently joined the Board and simultaneously accepted the position of treasurer. He has not had a long association with Patuxent, but got excited about the facility when he attended the "Night on the Wild Side" social activity at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Bob received his Bachelor's degree from Towson State University and an MBA from Loyola University in Baltimore. Bob currently is President and CEO of Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union in Bowie. In addition to his financial skills, Bob has an interest in environmental education and in helping the Board to make Patuxent a better known facility in Maryland. The Board looks forward to being entertained with his talents playing the guitar!

Dale Mangum is a lifelong resident of Montgomery County, MD, living along the Patuxent River since 1968. It was this area that developed an early and strong interest in wildlife observation, conservation, and photography. He graduated from Frostburg State University with a Bachelor's degree in political science in 1982. He has been married for 33 years and has three sons, one grandson, and second grandchild due in May 2017. Dale is the third generation owner/operator Bell Flowers, Inc., a retail florist in Silver Spring, MD and supplies plants to 180 Home Depot Garden Centers in the mid-Atlantic region. Along with photography his hobbies include oyster aquaculture and raising oysters at his home in Berlin, MD, where he annually harvests 2-3,000 oysters, which he share with friends and family. Dale is a fairly new to Patuxent and the Friends, but looks forward to supporting the Friends mission any way he can. Maybe we will see a raw oyster bar at the Friends next function!

Members of the Friends can view bios and pictures of other Board members on the Friends website. 🐙

**WE SALUTE AND APPLAUD
OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Songbird Nest Box Monitoring at the Patuxent Research Refuge for 2016

By Thomas B. Kirby

In 2016, songbird nest box monitoring took on a new life at the Patuxent Research Refuge in several important ways. First, as noted in the invitation to volunteers last spring to join the Songbird Nest Box Monitoring program at the Refuge, the monitoring of songbirds, particularly bluebirds, is now a Citizen Science project. Second, all data collected by the volunteer monitors is now recorded in a single on-line database provided by NestWatch and hosted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

“NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and



Nest box mauled by a ‘probable’ raccoon with brood & box lost. Photo courtesy of Mike Neary, Volunteer monitor



Tree Swallow eggs and hatchlings (The eggs are actually white, lighting conditions make them appear bluish). Photo courtesy of Mike Neary, Volunteer monitor

trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. Our database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.”

All breeding data from each individual nest box of North, Central and South Tract have been put into NestWatch for the first time under the direction of the Nest Box Monitor Coordinators - Jay Pape, Frank McGilvrey and Tom Kirby,

respectively. The volunteer monitors involved in this project in 2016 were Rod Burley, Dennis Kellie, Lillian Fazio, Jerry Feldman, Johnnie Ramos and Jay Pape for North Tract; Erin Bailey, intern; John Bourne, staff and Rachel Hiller for Central Tract; Benjamin Bowers, Charice Shellahamer, Marcia Holden, Tom Kirby, Ken Lavish and Mike Neary for South Tract. Nancy Newman Pape provided data entry support. This article is a big “Thank you!” to all for their sustained dedication from mid-March through mid-August. I apologize to any volunteer that I may have failed to mention.

So, 2016 is a baseline year for Patuxent’s Citizen Science project as part of

a national effort to monitor breeding successes and failures of bird populations. The Refuge specifically provides an important and high value source of data on “cavity” nesting songbirds. As ever, the ongoing future success of the Patuxent songbird nest monitoring depends on our many dedicated volunteers.

I again thank everyone who helped with the nest box monitoring this past year and believe we were very successful. If you have an interest in helping next year, please feel free to contact Diana Ogilvie, Volunteer Coordinator or myself.

Here are our 2016 contributions to NestWatch from mid-March to mid-August, our monitoring period and the songbirds’ five-month breeding season!

Well, you might ask, why is our nesting success only around 60%? Why are we not more successful? After all, we provide all the amenities of a nice suburban home, generally with plenty of natural food around with a variety of bugs, fruits and seeds. The truth is,



Blacksnake looking for a meal and finding it. Photo courtesy of Patuxent staff

Mother Nature can be hard. Last spring was very wet and very cold for a long time and we lost some nestlings due to that weather; also there are natural predators around who have a hankering for lunch as well, as illustrated by the accompanying photos.

And those numbers lead us to ask, what cavity nesting songbirds are we monitoring? During 2016, we monitored four species between the three locations at Patuxent - Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, Black-capped Chickadee and the Carolina Chickadee. 🐦

	Nest Sites	Nesting Attempts	Nest Attempts at least 1 fledge	Eggs	Young	Fledglings	Nesting Success* Rate (%)
North	42	66	39	285	197	165	59
Central	58	58	39	289	208	176	67
South	28	26	12	102	98	57	46
Patuxent	128	150	90	676	503	398	60

* Nesting Success Rate (%) is 'Nesting Attempts with at least one fledge' divided by 'Nesting Attempts' as defined by the NestWatch program.

Location	Species	Nest Attempts	First Egg Date	Total Number Eggs	Total Fledge
North	Tree Swallow	17	5/5/2016	73	26
	Carolina Chickadee	5	4/20/2016	21	13
	Eastern Bluebird	44	4/1/2016	191	126
Central	Tree Swallow	44	4/17/2016	219	129
	Black-capped Chickadee	1	4/21/2016	5	0
	Eastern Bluebird	13	4/2/2016	65	47
South	Tree Swallow	8	4/29/2016	68	43
	Eastern Bluebird	8	3/27/2016	34	14

Teaching Russian Cranes How to Fly

Continued from page 1

transport by plane occurred due to the generosity of KLM Airlines at Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI). Patuxent's good friend Walter Townshend, President and CEO of the Baltimore Washington Chamber of Commerce, made the initial contact with KLM at BWI requesting free transport. KLM agreed and were extremely gracious and accommodating to all aspects of the trip, especially the welfare of the bird.

After the crane was inspected by Patuxent veterinarian, Dr. Glenn Olsen, it was transported to BWI Airport. KLM's main location is Amsterdam, Netherlands. Most international flights go through this city so KLM established a large Veterinary Hospital there to accommodate any animals being shipped to or through Europe. Our sandhill crane was immediately taken to the hospital on arrival and received an inspection by their veterinarian. After a 2-3 hour layover in Amsterdam the crane was back on the plane for the trip to Russia.



Indoor facility of crane pen complex in Russia

Upon arrival in Russia, Mr. O'Connor recalls a quick overnight rest for him and the crane and then first thing in the morning escorting the crane to a Refuge about 300 miles south of Moscow. The Russians provided es-



Patuxent's sandhill crane in Russia after long trip by air and bus



Mr. Hal O'Connor in middle with Russian escorts

corts and interpreters on the bus. It was an all day trip on roads that were well below our interstate quality roads. Mr. O'Connor recalls that the refuge manager had a bathroom in his small house, but the guest house had an outhouse.



Sandhill crane loaded on bus for long trip to refuge



Crate with crane ready for long flight to Russia



Animal Hotel maintained by KLM in Amsterdam



Siberian cranes in covered pens similar to pens at Patuxent's captive crane colony

The walk at night in 2-feet of snow made Hal happy that the stay at the refuge was for only one night.

The Russians followed the protocols Patuxent had established with our captive colony of cranes. They took the eggs from the Siberian cranes and placed them under foster sandhill crane parents. The Siberian cranes then laid additional eggs (double clutching), thereby increasing the production of the valuable eggs.

The propagation program has been successful so the second phase of "teaching" the cranes to migrate has begun. The current endangered Siberian cranes were raised by the Russian World Wildlife Fund. Putin had been learning to fly the glider for several months, and hoped to be able to start the cranes on their journey before his attendance was required at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference later in the week. Unfortunately, on October 11, 2012, we

learned that the assisted migration had failed and the cranes were returned to their propagation site. Patuxent's program also has had a few setbacks, but, hopefully, with more experience and effort the Russian migration program with captive reared Siberian cranes will be successful. Staff at Patuxent can be proud that they assisted directly with the propagation program of an endangered species in Russia by providing techniques to raise Siberian cranes in captivity and to teach them the most important first migration. 🦶

Friends of Patuxent

2015-2016 Annual Report

Fiscal year 2015-16 was filled with challenges, exciting events and fun opportunities for the Friends of Patuxent. It was a year of overall success. One objective that we started work on this year was to build the Board of Directors to enhance our capabilities and expand our reach to the community; and we will continue to do that. Another objective was to explore additional fundraising opportunities to be able to better support Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR) and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC) in reaching their project goals and missions.

New members to the Board were Matthew Perry, retired scientist from PWRC and whom many of you know; and Robert Schroeder, President of the Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union and whom many of you will want to get to know. Many of you are aware that in September 2015, Evelyn Adkins, former Treasurer of the Friends, retired. So, we had been without a treasurer for over a year. Brenda Stone, Assistant Treasurer did a fantastic job carrying out the treasurer's duties. Bob Schroeder became the Treasurer of the Friends. Thank you, Bob, for stepping up to this responsibility. This year, Ed Grimes and Brenda Stone retired from the Board. All of their excellent contributions are appreciated and their presence will be missed. Thank you Evelyn, Ed and Brenda for your dedication and all that you have done for the Friends.

On February 18, 2016, the Friends Partnership Agreement and Supplemental Agreement between Patuxent Research Refuge and the Friends of Patuxent was signed and implementation begun. Additionally, on June 28, 2016 the Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. Geological Survey - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and



the Friends of Patuxent was signed. Copies are available on request.

Fundraising

Wildlife Images, the Friends bookstore, has continued to provide excellent service and merchandise to visitors, staff and volunteers. Linda Shive, Wildlife Images manager, continually finds exciting new items to add to the inventory. Thank you, Linda, and the bookstore volunteers who keep the bookstore running smoothly. Bookstore funds raised for this past year were approximately \$4,000.00.

The Friends Crane Café, operated by Brenda Sone and supported by hard-working volunteers, was held at the Refuge's 2015 Wildlife Festival, the Friends Holiday Bazaar in November, 2015, and the Refuge Birthday Bash in March 2016. A Mini-Crane Café was held at the March 2016 DC Environmental Film Festival screening. An expanded offering of food items was well received by the public who visited the Refuge for these events. Funds realized from the café this past year was about \$800.00.

The Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar was held on November 14, 2015. It was our 5th Bazaar and we had about 500 visitors, a significant increase from the last year. We had many new vendors, a great variety of treasures in

Baldy's Bargains thrift shop and great fun all around. Funds raised at the 2015 Bazaar were approximately \$2,500.00.

The Adopt A Whooper (AAW) Committee was chaired by Ken Lavish. Nearly \$3,200.00 in donation funds were collected this year and designated to support PWRC's Whooping Crane Program. Many folks who donate to the program through symbolic adoption are yearly donors and their support is greatly appreciated. We have also received funds from school groups who hear Whooping Crane talks by Ken Lavish. Some of the AAW funds were utilized to buy a special computer and software for the Whooping Crane Mimic exhibit in the Visitor Center. This is an innovative and fun exhibit that we hope everyone will visit.

Outreach

Under the leadership of Charlie Deegan, the March 31, 2016 Night on the Wild Side (NOWS) was planned and held at the National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent Research Refuge. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about PRR and PWRC, which provide amazing resources and a place to explore and have fun; and get folks to discover or rediscover their Refuge. Guests included representatives from local large and small businesses, chambers of commerce, education institutions, civic and service organizations, and elected officials. We had over 270 attendees and received lots of positive feedback. With sponsorships and donations, Friends realized about \$4,000.00 for this event. We intend to nurture and sustain these valuable new and renewed friendships with donors, sponsors and members. Thank you to the committee members, staff and volunteers who made this event a huge success.

At the September 10, 2016 ECO Day at the Beltsville Branch of Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union, Friends of Patuxent volunteers and Refuge volunteer staffed two tables. We met nearly 70 some citizens, many of whom have lived in the area most of their lives and did not know about Patuxent Research Refuge. We provided information and handouts, and invited them to come visit their Refuge and take advantage of all it has to offer them.

Grants

The Friends applied for and assisted the Refuge in applying for a number of grants this past year. Working with Jennifer Hill, Park Ranger, the Friends (for the Refuge) received an Every Kid in the Park (EKIP) grant of \$6,780.00 from the National Park Foundation. This grant money supported transporting approximately 500 fourth-grade students to Patuxent Research Refuge.

Under the leadership of Rich Dolesh, Vice-chair of the Friends, Friends applied for and was awarded a \$1,900.00 grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and supported by Toyota. These funds went to support 3 educational events: the March 2016 DC Environmental Film Festival film screenings, Family Fun Day on May 21st, as part of Magnificent Whooping Crane Month, and the September 17th Monarch Festival at North Tract.

Jeanne Latham, Chair of Friends, helped Sandy Spencer, Supervisory Biologist, with a grant application to Baltimore Gas and Electric for a Bat Roost Project at North Tract. We were awarded a \$7,000.00 grant. This project will enhance bat research and help provide a venue for educating the public about bats.

Ann Coren, Refuge volunteer and Friends member, with some assistance from Jeanne Latham, applied for a Maryland Day to Serve Grant through the State of Maryland Governor's Office. A grant of just under \$5,000.00 was awarded to improve and enhance

the Schoolyard Habitat, which was accomplished on September 10 and 11, 2016. Thank you to Ann, the other Master Gardeners and volunteers for all their hard work.

Education

On March 19, 2016, under the leadership of Lisa Garrett, Friends members and former Board member, two films were presented as part of the DC Environmental Film Festival. One film was Osprey: Marine Sentinel, and the other, Puffin Patrol. The films and displays were well attended and feedback was very positive. For the first time, funds from the NEEF grant, supported by Toyota, were used to support this educational event.

Ken Lavish and the AAW committee planned and conducted activities in May 2016, which was advertised as Magnificent Whooping Crane Month. This was

I want to thank the members, volunteers, Refuge and Research Center staff, who helped make the Friends events and efforts a success

yet another successful undertaking, which provided interpretive displays, educational presentations by noted experts and technicians, and Whooping Crane tours at the Whooping Crane Observatory. May 21st was Family Fun Day and funds from the NEEF grant were used to support this event. Ken and Diana Ogilvie, Park Ranger and member of the committee, also conducted multiple Whooping Crane tours throughout the year. These were very popular and inspired visitors to not only contribute to the Whooping Crane Program, but to join the Friends of Patuxent.

On September 17, 2016 under the leadership of Sparky Sparks, Secretary of the Friends and Chair of the Monarch Festival Committee, the 2nd Monarch Festival was held at North

Tract. Over 300 visitors attended and they had lots of fun opportunities: children's games, family fun sing-along, nature hike, planting milkweed plants, observing the emergence of Monarch butterflies, and shopping the satellite Wildlife Images bookstore.

Operations / Membership

For the past year, the Membership Committee worked toward increasing memberships and offering interesting programs and activities for Friends members. On November 8, 2015 Ken Lavish and Diana Ogilvie conducted a behind-the-scenes Whooping Crane Tour. As usual, the tour was packed and at least one Friends membership was realized as a result of the tour. We held a Friends Ice Cream Social and Travelogue in April 17, 2016. This was very popular and we have had requests to do it again. On June 3, 2016, the Friends sponsored a Boat Tour at Patuxent River Park (PRP), led by Greg Kearns, PRP's naturalist. On this tour, several participants had the awesome opportunity to see and hold an osprey. On September 11, 2016, Dennis Green, Friends member and Refuge volunteer, guided Friends members on an informative Cemetery Tour at North Tract. Many positive comments were received, including requests for another similar tour.

Thank You

On behalf of the Friends, I want to thank the members, volunteers, Refuge and Research Center staff, who helped make the Friends events and efforts a success during fiscal year 2015 to 2016. With your help and support, we accomplished a great deal. And of course, a special thanks to Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager, John French, Research Center Director, and Diana Ogilvie, Liaison to PRR, and Shannon Beliew, Liaison to PWRC, for your ongoing encouragement, support and assistance to the Friends of Patuxent.

Thanks to everyone who gave contributions of baked goods or items to be

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Little Known Facts About Patuxent Slave Quarters at Patuxent

by Matthew C. Perry

When Patuxent Research Refuge was created in 1936 as the nation's first (and only) "wildlife experiment and research refuge," there were numerous buildings on the 2670 acres in various forms and conditions. Snowden Hall and the Duvall home were the two major structures, but there were many smaller homes, barns, and sheds located at Patuxent. Associated with the two major homes were also slave quarters, reflecting a part of the history of the land from the mid-1860s. The Snowden family once owned land from Laurel to the South River and the Duvall family also had major property holdings in the Bowie and Upper Marlboro areas. With the emancipation of slaves in 1863 many landowners could not maintain the extensive landholdings they previously managed, and much of their land was sold to newly arriving immigrants from Europe. The original land of Patuxent, which once was owned by two families, was comprised of 22 separate tracts of land when the government obtained the property in the 1920s, and also in the 1930s as part of the Resettlement Act.

Following the dedication of Patuxent Research Refuge in June 1939, major construction began at Patuxent after the demolition of old structures. The slave quarters were some of the first buildings to be destroyed as the early administrators thought they were an embarrassment to the country. Although pictures remain of the slave quarters there is little other information about these structures, which might be of interest to modern historians of slavery and African American history. The two structures used by slaves located on Patuxent that were photographed show chimneys, which is one of the few

distinctions from other wooden structures on Patuxent property used for farm equipment and storage. In spite of the chimneys, the structures appear

to be very crude and one can imagine that it was not a pleasant living environment during the cold winter months in Maryland. 🐦



Slave quarters located on Snowden property at Patuxent Research Refuge in 1936.



Slave quarters located on Duvall property at Patuxent Research Refuge in 1936.

Winter 2017 in the Hollingsworth Gallery

Faith Leahy-Thielke, Patuxent Volunteer

Winter 2017 in the Hollingsworth Gallery features the art work of Leela Rae Hein in January and the photography of Jim O'Leary in February and R. Brennan Jones in March.

Maryland artist, Leela Rae Hein makes her home in Columbia with her husband, Ross, and son, Riley Mica. She writes that both of her parents were also artists who encouraged her from early childhood on. As an adult, she was working in retail management when "serendipity" struck! Laid off, she resolved to work from home and be there for her then three-year-old, and started doing her art full time as a business - which she named for her son. Hein describes herself as mostly self-taught, and has experimented with "every medium imaginable." To do her subjects "justice" she may use colored pencil, pastel, or watercolor - and mixtures of all three. Animals and birds are her favorites. She tries to capture the little details that "bring a picture to life."

She and her family love excursions to all the state parks. The close by favorite is Patapsco, but they often visit Blackwater, Chincoteague and Assateague. Her husband loves to fish - so she and Riley wander and photograph the local wildlife - shots to use for reference in the artwork. The holiday season is hectic with shows and orders, so we hope she'll have a breather before her Hollingsworth exhibit.

Jim O'Leary may well be staking a claim to February. We enjoyed his photography last year during this month. He is a senior scientist at the Maryland Science Center, where he has served and innovated for more than thirty years. O'Leary has planned, produced and designed the presentation of programs in the MSC's Davis Planetarium and the Crosby Ramsey Memorial Planetarium. Seven of these have

played in "more than 650 planetariums worldwide." He gives talks and lectures to school groups and workshops for educators.

Since his Massachusetts childhood, O'Leary has had a love of photography. He says that it flips a switch and transports us to another time and place - or captures and preserves a special moment or place forever. And O'Leary has photographed not only in Maryland from Wallops west, but special natural environments as far as Chile and Mon-

golia. He'll be hanging 20-24 images preserving those special places or moments. He focuses on the "majesty and diversity" of our natural world from the butterfly on a flower to the bird in flight, and enjoys sharing those "moments" with us.

March's exhibitor, R. Brennan Jones is based in Clarksville. A spectacular landscape photograph is the face of his website which is under construction.

Bring on 2017. 🐦

Patuxent Joins "The Big Sit" for 2016



Patuxent took part in the "Big Sit" on October 8th for the third year in a row and despite rain and poor visibility our hardy band of birders identified 23 species in four hours. The "Big Sit" rules are simple, identify as many birds as you can from a 17' diameter circle. The many species sighted included:

Carolina Chickadee, Canada Goose, Chimney Swift, Ring-billed Gull, Bald Eagle, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle.

Thanks to everyone who came out and special thanks to Amy Shoop for all her help with our setup.

Conservationists for Kids (and Adults) Biographies at Wildlife Images

By Pat Simons

Biographies can inspire and teach children. They can encourage children to pursue their interests and they can open the door to new subjects. They can provide examples of how individuals can affect the world we live in and show children how seemingly small steps can lead to larger changes.

Consider these biographies for children...

Rachel Carson: Preserving a Sense of Wonder by Joseph Bruchac with illustrations by Thomas Locker (and part of his *Images of Conservationists* series). This beautifully illustrated book takes the reader from how a young girl, enthralled by nature in a small town in Pennsylvania became the author of a truly groundbreaking and world-changing book. This book was the winner of Learning Magazine's Teacher's Choice Award. (Age 4-8).

John Muir: America's Naturalist is another book in the *Images of Conservationists* series by Thomas Locker. Again, lushly illustrated, this book traces Muir's early life in Scotland to his enduring fascination with Yosemite, his participation in the founding of the Sierra Club, and his work to protect and preserve wilderness areas. (Ages 4-8).

Who Was Rachel Carson? and **Who Was Theodore Roosevelt?** Wildlife Images now has biographies of Rachel Carson and Theodore Roosevelt from the well-known and popular "Who Was" series of books for children (Ages 7-12).



Breath of Wilderness, The Life of Sigurd Olson by Kristin Eggerling (a *Conservation Adventurers* series book) tells the story of Sigurd Olson and how his love for nature and wild places transformed his life and inspired him to play a key role in the movement to preserve wilderness throughout North America, to help write the Wilderness Act of 1964, and to preserve the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The book includes a glossary, timeline, photographs, and a list of places to visit such as the Florida Everglades, Arctic National Wildlife, and Point Reyes National Seashore among

other areas Olsen helped protect. Written for ages 9-12, the book is a good read for adults as well.

Things Natural, Wild, and Free. The Life of Aldo Leopold by Maybeth Lorbiecki is another title in the *Conservation Adventurers* series. The book presents Aldo Leopold's childhood where he played and roamed the bluffs along the Mississippi River, his boarding school days where his classmates nicknamed him "Naturalist," his early training as a forester, his pioneering work in environmental protection and wildlife management, and his

writing of *A Sand County Almanac*. The book also includes a timeline, photos, additional resources, places to visit, and suggested activities.

Another book in the *Conservation Adventurers* series is **Parks for the People: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted** by Julie Dunlap. The author describes Olmsted's early life including his stint at sea as a young man, his attempts at farming, and the

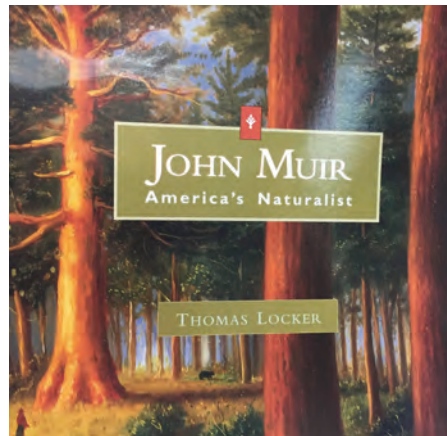


path that led him to becoming America's first landscape architect creating parks and public spaces around the country, including such iconic places as New York's Central Park and the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC.

And for adults, biographies currently on the shelves...

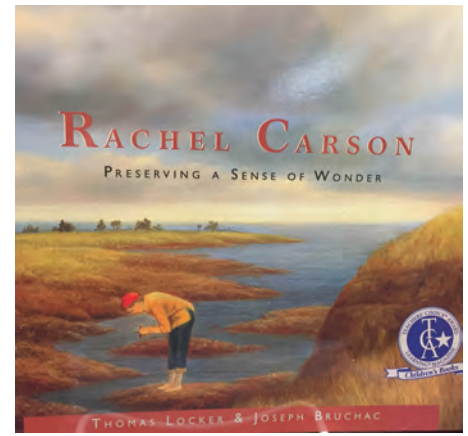
Under a Wild Sky: John James Audubon and the Making of the Birds of America by William Souder. Suffice to say we keep restocking this book, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer prize. Rich with detail, this is an engrossing book about Audubon as well as nature and life in the 19th century.


Nature's Ambassador: The Legacy of Thornton W. Burgess, by Christie Palmer is a must read for admirers of Thornton W. Burgess. Per-



haps you remember reading his books as a child or perhaps reading them to your children. Think **Old Mother West Wind, The Burgess Bird Book for Children**, or the many **Adventures of...** tales. The biography is extensively researched portraying the many facets of Burgess's life—as a naturalist, environmentalist, conservationist, teacher, and children's writer. The bookstore also stocks many of these classic children's books.

Bob Hines, National Wildlife Artist by John D. Juriga is a biography of Bob Hines, National Wildlife Artist for the USFWS—the only person ever granted that distinction. Hines found his calling as a wildlife artist while a staff artist for the Ohio Division of Conserva-



tion and Natural Resources. Seeing nature as a way to offset the effects of the Depression, he actively championed Ohio's natural beauty through newspaper articles and other publications. In 1948 he came to the USFWS, where to his chagrin his first supervisor was to be a woman—Rachel Carson, who, after they became colleagues, later asked him to illustrate her book **The Edge of the Sea**. In the 1950's he designed the first four U.S. postage stamps that featured American wildlife. He also initiated the idea of an open contest with objective judging for the annual Duck Stamp, a process still in place today. For a brief interview with the author, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/2013duckstamp/bobhines.html> 

Join the Wildlife Images Bookstore Volunteers

Do you like to meet people? Are you interested in retail? Do you have a few hours to spare? The Wildlife Images Bookstore is still looking for a couple more volunteers to help in the store. Hours and days are flexible. For more information, contact the store manager,

Linda at 301-497-5771 or wibookstore@friendsofpatuxent.org

Welcome New Friends of Patuxent Members

(June - November 2016)

Lowell Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Anderson
Matthew Beziat
Jordan Bisasky
Diane & Donald Chu
David Coaxum
Edgar Courtemanch
Mary Ann Fluke
Stephen Labash
Mayor & City Council of Laurel
Dwight McCurdy
Marilyn Moses
Kevin Murphy
Sue Priftis
Marilyn Reeves
Bernd & Lucy Kiekebusch-Steinitz
Delia Vargas

[Our apologies for any omissions or errors.]

RENEWING Friends Members

(June - November 2016)

Wayne & Polly Barnes
Laura Coughlan
Barbara Dahlberg
Karl Debus-Lopez & Tanner Wray
Charles Dilla
Julie Dunlap
Michelle Hanko
Glenda Kamosa
John & June Kentlein
Tom & Evelyn Kirby
Bonnie Mulligan
Debbie Phillips
Michael Quinlan
Has & Linda Reichnach
Barbara Saffir
Amy Shoop
Penny Wolkow
Eric Zanot

[Our apologies for any omissions or errors.]



DONORS to the Friends of Patuxent

Many thanks to those who provided donations to the Friends of Patuxent. With your generous support, the Friends will be assisted in reaching our mission of supporting the wildlife research, conservation, recreation and environmental education missions of Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.


Karen Ackermann
Anne Arundel Co Farmers Market
Jordan Bisasky
Calvary Baptist Church Academy
Diane & Donald Chu
Charles & Becky Dukes
Ji Guo

Dennis Hartnett
Lisa & Ernie Hoerger
Bernd & Lucy Kiekebusch-Steinitz
Stephen Labash
Many Paths of Learning
Joan Nolan
Penny Wolkow
Eric Zanot

We want to thank the following for their extra generous donation to the Friends of Patuxent.

Nancy Newman-Pape
Philpott Family Foundation
Smithsonian

Thank you very much!

[Our apologies for any omissions or errors.] 

Corrections (Errors appearing in the Fall 2016 Newsletter)

Pg. 15 - The picture by Ann Coren captioned "Baby Black snake in mulch wagon" was incorrect, it is a Smooth Earth Snake, Virginia valeriae. Thanks to the good eyes of Dr. Harry Coulombe.

Pg. 5 - "From the Archives" is a picture of Cash Lake. That peninsula was cleared well before 1972. There were no stumps, nor any evidence of any stumps or ruts from heavy equipment. It was probably cleared in the mid-60s or prior.

Pg. 8 - 11 lb Osprey fledgling. Full grown adults only reach about 2-4.5 lbs.

Kid's pg. - There are only 2 species of Eagles in North American, not 8.

A Report of Bazaar Goings-on at the Refuge

By Mary Ann Hartnett

Thanks to the excellent planning and dedicated hard work by chairperson, Brenda Stone, her bazaar committee, volunteers, vendors, shoppers, and the Refuge staff's input, the 6th Annual Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 5, 2016, was a great success.

Purchases made at the café, bake sale, Baldy's bargains, craft table, kid's corner, vendors (27 who paid \$10.00 for each space they reserved plus donating 15% of their total sales that day



to the Refuge), and donations made at the "give this plant a good home" table amounted to a profit of over \$2,000.00.

The weather was perfect for tram rides and getting information from Master Gardeners plus, the Wildlife Images bookstore also had record sales that day. A good day all around.

Before we know it, the 7th Annual Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar will be here. Save the date - Saturday, November 4, 2017 - and start planning now to be a part of this festive event. 🦉

Mushrooms at Patuxent

Photo essay by Lucy Y. Steinitz and Bernd Kiekebusch



Whooping Crane Observatory Tours

From March through October, public tours are planned for the first Sunday of each month. To celebrate Magnificent Whooping Crane Month tours will be conducted every Sunday in May.

Space is very limited.

For ages 14+.

October 25th was SPOOKY!!

by Bobbie Deegan

It sure was spooky at the National Wildlife Visitor Center on October 25th! That's because Friends of Patuxent hosted our first Spooky Night in conjunction with the Annual Meeting that night. This was the Board's way of thanking our sponsors for their support of A Night on the Wild Side earlier this year.

Many thanks to our caterers, Three Brothers Restaurant in Bladensburg and Maggiano's Little Italy in Columbia, for supplying the delicious food. Thanks and a big hug to Sparky Sparks, who provided platters of desserts!

Activities included visits by/displays about a variety of "spooky" critters, including bats, spiders, snakes and owls. Guests enjoyed the last tram rides of the season, too. It was great to have Lucille Brogden among the attendees. Lucille was the first Chair of the Friends of Patuxent and was pleased to be able to join in the evening's fun.

Other special guests who spent the evening with us were a corn snake, a screech owl, and a very friendly millipede who tramped for hours over numerous hands of curious people. The Friends thank the three of you for being so well behaved for your "appearance coordinators," Jenn Hill, Diana Ogilvie, and Shannon Beliew!

Artistic kudos to Ross Feldner, our beloved editor of this newsletter. Ross



A Corn snake was among the many spooky guests.

designed a great flyer and program cover for the event. He also designed the awesome "grave markers" for eight species that, sadly, are no longer with us. The headstones memorialized animals ranging from the Dodo, which became extinct around 1660 due to overhunting, invasive species and habitat loss, to the Baiji Dolphin, believed to be extinct in 2006 due to overfishing, habitat loss, and pollution. Ross's Extinct Graveyard was a playful but sobering reminder of what conservation is all about.

At the Annual Meeting, the Friends Board of Directors gratefully recognized Walt Townshend, former President of the Baltimore Washington

Corridor Chamber and a longtime supporter of Patuxent Research Refuge and the Friends. Board Chairwoman Jeanne Latham presented Walt with a certificate that read:

To H. Walter Townshend, III, for his part in coordinating major contributions from private companies for the construction of the National Wildlife Visitor Center and for enthusiastically promot-



Extinct animals graveyard

Thank You Friends Members,
Sponsors and Donors

You are invited

SPOOKY NIGHT

October 25, 2016
4:30 PM to 8:00 PM

At the Friends of Patuxent Annual Meeting
National Wildlife Visitor Center
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708

Also Honoring Walt Townshend, Past President of
Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber and
Supporter of Patuxent Research Refuge and the Friends

Light Refreshments • Live Spooky Animals
Fun for the Family • Conservation Tram Rides



Friends Chair Jeanne Latham presents H. Walter Townshend, III with certificate.



Guest enjoy the delicious food provided by Three Brothers Restaurant and Maggiano's Little Italy



A Screech owl was another spooky guest.

ing the activities of the Research Center and Research Refuge to the public.

Thank you again, Walt, for all that you have done for the Refuge over the years.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Friends of Patuxent. Guests attending Spooky Night received a goody bag that included a custom-designed commemorative coin noting the occasion. I hope you were able to be there on that fun night! 🦉

Images From Around Patuxent

Photos by Matt Beziat



Fragrant Water Lily



Eastern Carpenter Bee

Chair's Comments

Continued from page 1

We have begun to build the Friends Board of Directors, so that we can do bigger and better things - for Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will probably see photos of the board members. Your Board of Directors includes me, Rich Dolesh, Sparky Sparks, Harlan Tucker, Charlie Deegan, Ken Lavish, Matt Perry and three new Board members: Lowell Adams, Barbara Richman and Dale Mangum. Welcome aboard! I would like to recognize Brenda Stone and Ed Grimes who retired from the

And we hosted our second Monarch Festival in September that was a huge success.

I must thank the Friends Board members, Refuge and Research Center staff, Friends members and volunteers for your support, time and enthusiasm this past year. We accomplished much thanks to all of you. And we have to thank the public for their interest and participation.

As we begin this year of 2016-17, the Friends will be searching for additional key individuals to fill other vacancies on

I must thank the Friends Board members, Refuge and Research Center staff, Friends members and volunteers for your support, time and enthusiasm this past year.

Board this year - their support, dedication, service and leadership are appreciated and will be missed.


Friends fundraising was done through the Wildlife Images bookstore, Crane Café, Wildlife Holiday Bazaar and Adopt A Whooper Program. These funds will be used to help support the missions of the Refuge and Research Center. Congratulations on a job well done.

The Friends obtained a grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation. And we worked with the staff of the Refuge and Research Center to secure several other grants. We realized nearly \$20,000 for various projects and programs. Now that's something of which to be proud!

As for education, Friends sponsored the DC Environmental Film Festival film screenings in March that were well attended and very much enjoyed by visitors. May was Magnificent Whooping Crane Month, which provided interpretive displays, education presentations and Whooping Crane tours.

our Board of Directors. For those persons who wish to serve in such a leadership capacity, or have questions about the responsibilities of being a Board member, feel free to contact any one of the Board members. Additionally, the Board welcomes and encourages members to join any of the committees, which develop fun projects and wildlife conservation education programs. We will also be exploring fundraising opportunities and different venues, so that we can expand our support of the Refuge and Research Center priority projects. We will work toward growing our membership and reaching the community. And we will be hosting another outreach event like the March 2016 Night on the Wild Side in 2017.

For more details, see the entire Friends 2015-2016 Annual Report on page 8 in this newsletter.

Please join the Friends of Patuxent in supporting Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. 

Friends of Patuxent 2015-2016 Annual Report

Continued from page 9


sold at the Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar. Your contributions and donations helped us reach our goal of supporting the missions of the Refuge and Research Center.

Thank you to the Friends officers, Rich Dolesh, Vice-chair and Sparky Sparks, Secretary, for your leadership and support to me personally. And thanks to the rest of the Board members for your hard work on various committees this past year, which made our events great successes - Brenda Stone, Ed Grimes, Harlan Tucker, Charlie Deegan, Ken Lavish and Matt Perry. We have begun to chart a course for the Friends to become an exemplary organization.

Looking Forward

As we begin this new fiscal year of 2016-17, the Friends will be searching for key individuals to fill the several vacancies on our Board of Directors. For those persons who wish to serve in such a leadership capacity, or have questions about the responsibilities of being a Board member, feel free to contact any one of the Board members. Additionally, the Board welcomes and encourages members to join any of the committees, which develop fun projects and wildlife conservation education programs. We will also be exploring fundraising opportunities and different venues, so that we can expand our support of the Refuge and Research Center priority projects. We will work toward growing our membership and reach to the community. And we are considering having another outreach event like the March 2016 Night on the Wild Side.

Please join the Friends of Patuxent in supporting Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Respectfully submitted, 

Jeanne E. Latham
Chair, Friends of Patuxent
October 25, 2016

We invite you to join!

Your membership/ contribution helps support the mission and programs at Patuxent.

You also receive the following benefits:

- Quarterly newsletter (mailed on request or go to www.friendsofpatuxent.org)
- 10% discount in our Wildlife Images bookstore and other area refuge bookstores
- Attendance at member functions
- Participation in on-site educational programs
- Sense of accomplishment in providing many opportunities for wildlife-related recreation, education and research



FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016

- Jeanne Latham, Chair
 Richard Dolesh, Vice-chair
 Clarence "Sparky" Sparks, Secretary
 Robert Schroeder, Secretary
 Lowell Adams, Director • Charles Deegan, Director
 Kenneth Lavish, Director • Dale Mangum, Director
 Matthew Perry, Director • Barbara Richman, Director
 Harlan Tucker, Director

LIAISONS

- Diana Ogilvie, Patuxent Research Refuge Liaison
 Shannon Beliew, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Liaison
 Douglas Meister, Esq., General Counsel

FRIEND OF PATUXENT BOARD MEETINGS

Friends Board Meetings will be held at 5 PM at the Visitor Center. The scheduled meetings remaining for this fiscal year are: Jan. 17; Feb. 21 (phone meeting, tentative); Mar. 21; April 18 (phone meeting, tentative); May 16; Jun. 20 (phone meeting, tentative). Rest of the year - to be determined.

JOIN TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

(E-mail address will not be sold or shared. It will be used for Friends and Refuge announcements only.)

Phone: (opt.) _____ New Renewal

- Individual (\$25/yr), gift: FOP bookmark (or other) Family (\$35/yr), gift: FOP decal (or other)
 Contributor (\$75/yr), gift: History of Patuxent DVD (or other) Sponsor (\$250/yr), gift: FOP hat (or other)
 Life (\$500), gift: FOP shirt (or other) Please ✓ size: S M L XL XXL XXXL
 Life-65+ (\$300), gift: FOP shirt (or other) Please ✓ size: S M L XL XXL XXXL

Donation \$ _____ *Make check to "Friends of Patuxent" and mail to address on reverse side of this page.*

- Check here if you prefer not to have a gift, and instead have your entire dues support Friends of Patuxent.
 Check here if you would like save a tree by reading our quarterly newsletter online.



FRIENDS OF PATUXENT



FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

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Laurel MD, 20708-4011

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10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel MD, 20708-4011

Phone: 301-497-5789

www.friendsofpatuxent.org

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN!

Friends of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Patuxent Research Refuge, Inc is a designated Section 501(c)(3) public charity. It is a membership organization whose mission is to financially support the research of the PWRC and the environmental education, outreach and recreational missions at the PRR. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our Maryland Charitable Organization Registration-2348.

Your membership/contribution helps support the mission and programs at Patuxent. You also receive the following benefits:

- Quarterly newsletter (mailed on request or go to www.friendsofpatuxent.org)
- 10% discount in our Wildlife Images bookstore and other area refuge bookstores
- Attendance at member functions
- Participation in on-site educational programs
- Sense of accomplishment in providing many opportunities for wildlife-related recreation, education and research

(Application on reverse side)