

# FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

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July-August-September 2017



## Another Wild Night

By Bobbie Deegan, Friends of Patuxent Member

The 2nd Annual *A Night on the Wild Side* at the National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent Research Refuge was a great success! The Friends of Patuxent Board of Directors initiated this major outreach effort last spring to make the business community, other civic and community leaders, and area politicians more aware of the refuge and all that it offers the community.

This year's goal was similar: to raise awareness of the refuge among those who may not realize what a local treasure and unique national resource we have in our own "back yard." We wanted to show local leaders what the Refuge has to offer, so they would be inspired to not only take advantage of the opportunities it offers, but to invite their associates, friends and families to experience the Refuge. We also hoped to attract new members to the Friends of Patuxent and generate local good will and support.



It worked! On the evening of Thursday, April 20th, Event Chairman Charlie Deegan, Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen, and Center Director John French welcomed more than 200 invited guests to *A Night on the Wild Side*. We offered our guests a broad range of ex-



Photo by Ross Feldner

periences that highlighted what Patuxent has to offer, and they responded enthusiastically. As always, the conservation tram rides were very popular. Weeks later, I was still getting compliments on what a great job volunteer Stephanie Everett did interpreting on the tram rides. Attendees were "enrap-

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## Chair's Comments

### Do You Love Wild Animals and Plants? You Can Make a Difference!

By Jeanne E. Latham, Chair of the Friends of Patuxent

I'm sure you have a favorite wild bird or critter or plant. Painted turtle? Wild orchid? White-breasted nuthatch? River otter? Maidenhair fern? I recently read that if we are going to save endangered wild critters or plants, we need to save their habitat. Well,



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## Chandler S. Robbins 1918-2017

By John R. Sauer



**C**han was a visionary leader of 20th century bird conservation. During a career spanning over 70 years, he had an enormous influence on how we identify, count, and conserve birds. He had boundless interest and energy, conducting field work, writing books on field identification, and encouraging others to participate in the study of birds. Chan loved being outdoors, observing and studying birds. His office is packed with data from field studies: pesticide effects studies in the 1940's that influenced Rachel Carson, banding studies of albatross on Midway Island (Wisdom, a bird Chan banded in 1956 is still alive and laying eggs), decades of studies of birds in Mexico and Central America, influential studies of forest fragmentation in the eastern United States, and banding and distributional surveys of birds on the Patuxent Research Refuge and in his own backyard. And Chan was a "finisher", he not only

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tured" by Rodney Stotts and his raptors. A red-tailed hawk was the opening act, but his owl stole the show! Guests watched "raptly" as Diana Oglivie shared facts about the little Screech Owl. Tim Parker explained what we can learn from the skulls of local "critters," and volunteer Bill Harms raised awareness about the plants underfoot that we take for granted. Attendees came; they listened; and they went away with a new awareness of how complex Mother Nature is and that they need to get out and enjoy the Great Outdoors more! I am happy to report that we gained some new Friends that night, too.

Chandler Robbins passed away shortly before *A Night on the Wild Side* took place. His family graciously loaned us some of Chan's memorabilia for the evening so we could honor his many contributions to Patuxent Research Center with a special exhibit in his memory.

Friends Board Member Dale Mangum arranged a special treat for this year's attendees. As each guest left, they received a six-pack of milkweed seedlings to plant at home. Monarch butterflies love milkweed plants! In this way, each guest can participate in the Monarch Recovery Project.

Delicious refreshments were provided by Green Plate Catering in Wheaton; Maggiano's Little Italy in Columbia; and Three Brothers in Bladensburg. Please patronize these restaurants and thank them for their support of our wildlife research refuge!

*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](mailto: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.



Photo by Ed Grimes

*Night on the Wild Side*

Committee Member Ross Feldner designed a new tee shirt to commemorate this year's event. It is available for sale in the Wildlife Images bookstore. Check it out! As always, Friends will receive a 10% discount on their purchases.



We couldn't have pulled this off without a lot of hands! Volunteers maintained lists of invited guests and those who RSVP'd that they would be attending;



Photo by Nell Baldacchino



Photo by Ed Grimes

made name tags, welcomed our guests and staffed the registration table; coordinated logistics; designed the program booklet and a new tee shirt; and stuffed and distributed goodie bags. They staffed the exhibits and tables and, most importantly, made our guests feel at home and encouraged them to join the Friends of Patuxent. Friends Chairman Jeanne Latham and Friend Board Member and Event Chairman Charlie Deegan thank **EVERYONE** for making this such a special and rewarding evening. 🦋



Photo by Nell Baldacchino

# Aloha from James Campbell NWR

By Joe Gentile



Recently my wife Viviane and I had the opportunity to visit the James Campbell NWR on Oahu, Hawaii, and were included on a tour conducted by Lead Ranger Joe Schwagerl. Our first stop was the predator-proof enclosure holding almost two dozen albatross chicks of two species, Laysan and Black Albatross. The chicks, approximately eight weeks old, were quite large (15-18"), but still not fully feathered out and dependent on humans to feed them daily. (No costumes needed apparently!)

# Thank You for Making the Friends 2017 Night on the Wild Side a Huge Success!

By Jeanne Latham,  
Chair of the Friends of Patuxent

**T**hank you volunteers, Friends members, Refuge staff and Research Center staff for supporting, preparing for, and participating in the Friends Night on the Wild Side on April 20, 2017. This exciting outreach event was a huge success because of YOU!

We succeeded in our mission of reaching out to the community. Folks came, got excited about the Refuge and Research Center, and we heard many people talking about returning to the Refuge - with family, friends and associates in the near future. And several became Friends members! Mission accomplished - thanks in large part to you.

There are so many folks who were involved including the following:

**The Night on the Wild Side Committee** - thank you for your excellent planning and execution of the event - Charlie Deegan, Chair of the committee, Nell Baldacchino, Shannon Beliew, Frank Cockrell, Bobbie Deegan, Rich Dolesh, Stephanie Everett, Ross Feldner, Joe Gentile, Evelyn Kirby, Ken Lavish, Dale Mangum, Diana Ogilvie, Matt Perry, Barbara Richman, Bob Schroeder, Sparky Sparks, Lowell Adams and Harlan Tucker.

**And a huge THANK YOU to the volunteers** who staffed the event throughout the evening. You helped make this event an astounding success. All of you worked very hard and hopefully got a break to have some fun during the evening.

**Susan Alvarez** - food server assistant, goody bag distribution

**Matt Beziat** - bartender helper; cleanup crew



Photo by Ed Grimes



Photo by Ed Grimes

**Ron Clements** - tram driver

**Frank Cockrell** - information desk person

**Ann Coren** - greeter

**Allan Dansie** - bartender

**Marie Delaney** - helper for set up on 4/19

**Joe DiGiovanni** - set up on 4/19

**Jeannine Dorothy** - registration table; goody bag distribution

**Stephanie Everett** - tram interpreter; Family Fun Programs display staffer

**Casey Farmer** - greeter back up; bartender back up

**Ross Feldner** - photographer

**Julie Gaebe** - food server assistant, goody bag distribution



Photo by Ross Feldner



Photo by Rich Mulhare

**Mike Goldberg**

**Bill Harms**

**Tom Kirby**

**Elaine Nakash**

**Diana Ogilvie**

**Glenn Olsen**

**Tim Parker**

**Nicole Patterson** - guest displayer -  
Watkins Nature Center

**Thank you Refuge and  
Research Center Staff:**

**Brad Knudsen**, Refuge Manager,  
Patuxent Research Refuge, PRR

**Jennie McNicoll**, Visitor Services  
Manager, PRR

**Diana Ogilvie**, Park Ranger & Volun-  
teer Coordinator, PRR, & Liaison to  
Friends

**Jeff Bolden**, Park Ranger, PRR

**Tim Parker**, Environmental Education  
Coordinator, PRR

**Jen Chin**, Recreation Assistant/Con-  
ference Coordinator, PRR

**Jenn Hill**, Park Ranger, PRR

**John Bourne**, Wildlife Biologist, PRR

**Martin Brockman**, Facility Manager,  
PRR

**Mike McConnell**, Refuge Mainte-  
nance Staff, PRR

**Chelsea Miller**, Urban Refuge Intern,  
PRR

**Jan-Michael Archer**, Urban Refuge  
Intern, PRR

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Photo by Ross Feldner

**Lisa Garrett** - bartender

**Dennis Green** - set up on 4/19

**Ed Grimes** - photographer

**Lucy Grimes** - food server assistant

**Dennis Hartnett** - back up greeter

**Evelyn Kirby** - food server assistant

**Nancy Morrissey** - greeter;  
bartender back up

**Claudia Papillo** - registration table;  
lead for tram tickets; goody bag  
distribution

**Debbie Phillips** - registration table;  
goody bag distribution

**Pat Simons** - bookstore person

**Brenda Stone** - registration table;  
goody bag distribution

**Helen Welter** - helper for set up on  
4/19

**Thank you to all of the folks  
who staffed the displays:**

**Jan-Michael Archer &  
Chelsea Miller**

**Jeff Bolden**

**John Bourne**

**Martin Brockman**

**Rich Dolesh**

**Sam Droege**

**Stephanie Everett**

## Thank You for Making the Friends 2017 Night on the Wild Side a Huge Success!

*Continued from page 5*

**John French**, Center Director, PWRC

**Shannon Beliew**, Biologist, PWRC & Liaison to Friends

**Casey Farmer**, Secretary to the Director

**Glenn Olsen**, Veterinary Medical Officer, PWRC

**Sara Crowell**, Volunteer, PWRC

**Sam Droege**, Wildlife Biologist, PWRC




Photo by Ross Feldner



Photo by Neil Baldacchino

**And thanks to Linda Shive, Bookstore Manager** - thank you for doing a terrific job with sales of the donated Dale Mangum framed photos as well as the excellent store merchandise; and being there for me when I had questions about shirt colors, items for the goody bags, etc.

**NOTE:** Laurel TV did a video of our event, so you may want to check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7J AfWa58xJw> 

## Welcome & Thank You - New Friends of Patuxent Members

*(Since January 2017)*

Charles Bury  
 Roxanne Connolly  
 Judith Diedrich  
 Robin Dubendorf  
 Arlinda Felix  
 Julie Gaebe  
 Paula Goldberg  
 Harriett Hamlin  
 Laura Huff  
 Cathy Hurley  
 Steve Hurley  
 Chris Krebs  
 Lindsey Kushner  
 Lynne Larkin  
 Morgan McGinnity  
 Maura McMullen  
 Carson Mangum  
 Chad Mangum  
 Dale Mangum  
 Jean Mitchell  
 John Moynihan  
 Alexander Nunez  
 Erik Nyce  
 Vanessa Peck & Wesley Pattillo  
 Larry Pendleton  
 C. A. Purdey  
 Barbara Richman  
 Tom & Noralee Slezak  
 Smith Family  
 Don & Susan Tannenbaum  
 Ann Titherington  
 Toth Distribution Services  
 David Trauger  
 Adolfo Villeta  
 Diana Weatherby & Patrick Knight  
 Luke Winternitz  
 Natalie Woodard

### Thank You Renewing Members Friends Members

*(Since January 2017)*

Susan & Marcos Alvarez  
 Carolyn Brosch  
 Mike Brown  
 Susan Buswell  
 Lou & Celeste Cafiero

Brian Connolly  
 Charlie & Bobbie Deegan  
 Marie Delaney  
 Frank DiSalvo  
 Claude D. Falls  
 Ross Feldner  
 Bryan Fletcher  
 Mike Goldberg  
 Glenda Kamosa  
 Jennifer Karpa  
 Jean Larson  
 Ken Lavish & Janice Devine  
 Jill Lundin  
 Christine McElroy  
 Gary Mangum  
 Ken Michael  
 Jennifer Mook  
 Rich Mulhare, Jr.  
 Bruce Ours, Jr.  
 Barbara Putney  
 William Rees, Jr.  
 Ann & Robert Squire  
 Jane Ulrich  
 Susan & Steve Unger  
 Joyce Wineland  
 Mike Woernle  
 Cecilia Wright  
 Phyllis Yigdall

### Thank You New Lifetime Friends Members

Joann Alexander  
 William & Lyn Bentley  
 Jerome & Therese Myers

*[Our apologies for any errors or omissions.]*

### Sponsors and Donors of Friends of Patuxent 2017 Night on the Wild Side

Many thanks to those who provided sponsorship or donations or both to the Friends of Patuxent for the Friends April 20, 2017 Night on the

*Continued on page 13*

## **New Faces at Patuxent - Summer Interns**

### **Summer 2017 Intern - Tess Burroughs**

Tess grew up in the town of Sterling, Virginia, spending most of her time playing outdoors or reading books. Currently, she is a senior at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where she is earning a major in English and a minor in environmental sustainability. Her dream is to combine her writing skills and understanding of sustainability practices in order to create plans for preservation, conservation, and rehabilitation of the natural world. During her summer as an intern at Patuxent, she hopes to explore the successful methods that have been implemented to restore species and habitats, as well as the tools used to promote public involvement and environmental education. She is excited to be an intern here this summer!

## **JoAnna Marlow & Abraham Lopez Trejo - Summer 2017**

### **Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF) Interns**

Please extend a warm welcome to our two Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF) interns JoAnna and Abraham. In addition to helping out on the refuge, they will be spending half of their time with FWS Urban Refuge Program conducting outreach in Baltimore with staff from FWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office.

Abraham grew up in the desert grasslands in Chihuahua, Mexico and moved to the US when he was 16 years old. He recently graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and minors in Biology, and Urban & Regional Studies. For as long as he can remember, Abraham knew he had a passion for nature and science. He believes a better future lies within the ability to educate the communities about nature and the environment and how people can make a difference, especially those underserved. He feels grateful for this opportunity and cannot wait to learn more about Patuxent Research Refuge and their work with the community and wildlife of the area.

JoAnna grew up in Aberdeen, Maryland. She is currently studying Geology at Towson University. She has been pescatarian for 8 years and a lifeguard and swim instructor for 5 years at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Joanna believes in having clean, fresh water readily available for ourselves and our future generations. She supports educating the youth about the importance of a healthy environment and hopes to communicate her passions about the health of the Earth and to encourage people to take action.

Both JoAnna and Abraham are living on site.

## **Career Discovery Internship Program - Kevin Tran**

Hey, my name's Kevin and I'm from Philadelphia. I currently attend Temple University and majoring in Environmental Science. I've been working with SCA for about 5 programs now and enjoy the people I get to work with including the US FWS organization to help reach a younger audience and show them how breathtaking nature is. 🐦

## **THANK YOU for your DONATIONS to the FRIENDS**

**January through May 2017**

Benish  
 Brownie Troop 241  
 Community Foundation of Tampa Bay  
 Brian Connolly  
 Roxanne Connolly  
 Doner-Feldman  
 Robin Dubendorf  
 ECHO – Joan Nolan  
 Jason Edleberg  
 Paula Goldberg  
 GSCM Troop 1060  
 Jennifer Kirby  
 Jean Larson  
 Steve Lindeman  
 Dale Mangum  
 Jean Mitchell  
 National Wildlife Foundation  
 Erik Nyce  
 RPJ  
 James Shock  
 Troop 0134 Pioneers  
 Jane Ulrich  
 Joyce Wineland  
 Luke Winternitz



**WE SALUTE AND APPLAUD OUR VOLUNTEERS**

# Butterfly Books & More in the Wildlife Images Store

By Pat Simons

**B**utterflies, butterflies, butterflies. Flitting through the meadows, hovering over flowers, munching on milkweed, bursting with color, capturing our imaginations. And, as we know in many cases threatened by habitat loss, fragmentation, pesticide use, and climate change. Associated with freedom, spirituality, and transformation, butterflies have long fascinated humankind and been a part of storytelling in many societies around the world.

As you look forward to the Friends of Patuxent's Monarch Festival at the North Tract on September 16, drop by the Wildlife Images Book Store to check out our wide collection of books about butterflies. You'll find books for the serious cataloger, the casual observer, gardeners, and children of all ages.

But first to test your knowledge. You will find the answers to these questions and more in the bookstore.

1. What is the NABA and when was it founded?
2. What are some Native American traditions involving butterflies?
3. What are the top ten nectar plants for a butterfly garden?
4. What butterflies are attracted to fennel?
5. Where can I find a Life List of Butterflies checklist?
6. How is a butterfly different from a moth?
7. What are some host plants for caterpillars?
8. How many butterflies are on the USFWS's Endangered Species List?
9. Can butterfly taste with their feet?
10. What butterfly lays two eggs, one of which is a "dud" that doesn't hatch?



## Identifying Butterflies

**Butterflies of North America** by Jeffrey Glassberg. This is a beautiful guide with over 250 color photographs including oversized photos to help with identifying butterflies. The text includes details such as where butterflies live, length of a typical forewing, what the caterpillars eat, and what the adults eat. The author also explains behaviors such as basking, hilltopping, courtship, gully bottoming, and mud puddling.

**Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Butterflies** by Paul A. Opler and Vichai Malikul is another classic Peterson field guide.

**Butterflies through Binoculars.** A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Eastern North America by Jeffrey Glassberg. Includes 625 photos along with the size, habitat, range, and other details about butterflies of Eastern North America. There is also a section with advice on photographing butterflies.

The bookstore also has two different folding waterproof guides:

**Butterflies of the Western Chesapeake** (Washington DC, Maryland & Virginia) which includes photos of butterflies, caterpillars, and their respective host plants.

**Butterflies of the Mid-Atlantic States**, with illustrations and descriptions of 63 species. And by the same publisher, a full-size poster—Butterflies of the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast.

## Gardening for Butterflies

**Grow a Butterfly Garden** by Wendy Potter-Springer. This concise guide includes descriptions of common butterflies along with how to select host plants for caterpillars and butterfly attracting plants.

**Stokes Butterfly Book.** The Complete Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Identification, and Behavior by Donald and Lillian Stokes and Ernest Williams. Butterfly





habitats, life stages, colors, and behaviors, with both color photos and illustrations. Plus, details on planning and selecting plants for a butterfly garden.

***Making Butterfly Gardens*** by Dana Meachen Rau, illustrated by Kathleen Petelinsek. A “how-to library” book for children, this includes descriptions of butterfly behaviors, life cycles, and habitats along with sections on how to choose garden plants and tools, and how to create feeders and puddles.

## More about Butterflies

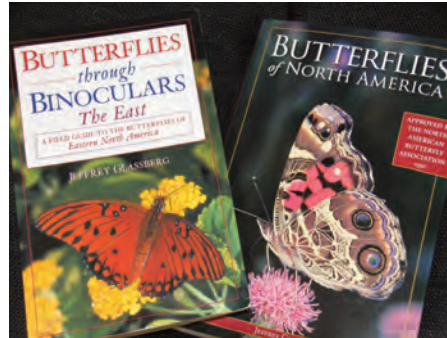
***The Life Cycles of Butterflies*** by Judy Burris and Wayne Richards. With photos and text, this book details the life cycle, from egg to maturity, of 23 common garden butterflies. For each butterfly, there is a photo and description of the eggs, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly along with field notes about habits, coloration, feeding habits, and other behaviors. The book also includes gardening tips and lists of host plants and nectar flowers.

## Crafts

***Easy Butterfly Origami*** by Tammy Yee. A collection of 30 pre-printed butterfly designs to fold into beautiful paper butterflies.

***Butterfly Origami*** by Roman Diaz. A kit that includes detailed instructions on how to create 20 origami butterflies and 100 sheets of specially designed paper.

***The Butterfly Box*** is a unique set of 18 4x5” vintage stickers reproduced from antique designs.

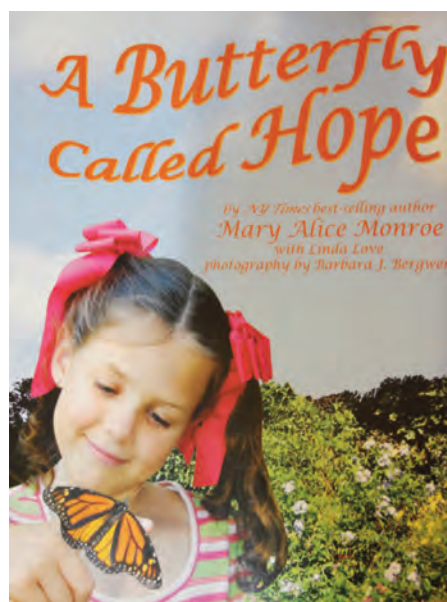


## Books for Children

***The Family Butterfly Book*** by Rick Mikula. A book for the whole family with information about caterpillars and butterflies, a guide for creating a butterfly attracting garden, and more. Includes a list of host plants, descriptions of the common backyard butterflies, and photography tips.

***Caterpillars and Butterflies*** by Stephanie Turnbull. A colorful book for younger readers with a variety of facts and vivid illustrations.

***How Does a Caterpillar Become a Butterfly?*** By Melissa Stewart. Through a series of 20 plus questions, the author tells us among other things, what butterflies do all day, how butterflies protect themselves from enemies, what metamorphosis is, and what butterflies eat. A fun way to learn through questions and answers, complemented with bright photos and illustrations.



***Caterpillar to Butterfly*** by Melissa Stewart is a board book from the American Museum of Natural History that cleverly shows the life cycle of a butterfly through a series of expanding pages.

***Monarch and Milkweed*** by Helen Frost and Leonid Gore. A classic and bestseller in the store. With soft-toned illustrations and rhythmic prose, this book describes the relationship between migrating monarchs and milkweed.

***A Butterfly Called Hope*** by Mary Alice Monroe. Accompanied by striking photographs this book tells the story of a girl and her mother as they care for and watch a caterpillar transform into a chrysalis and then emerge as a monarch butterfly. Includes additional learning activities at the end of the book.

## Fun for children

Also for children, we have butterfly maze books, sticker, and coloring books, a miniature butterfly kite, a kit to make 20 different brightly colored butterfly masks, and glow-in-the-dark t-shirts.

## Gift Ideas

Other items in the store with butterfly motifs include notecards, a deep purple Patuxent Refuge canvas tote bag, small notepads, bookmarks, key chains, magnets, coffee mugs, and metal garden signs.

So, remember to drop by Wildlife Images in the Visitor Center to prepare for your next foray into the world of butterflies. 🦋

# Central Tract Nest Box Repair: Is This Fun or What?!


By Tom Kirby, Songbird Nest Box Volunteer Coordinator - South Tract • Photos by Sarah & Trevor Siperek

A major effort has been underway to inventory, repair or replace the songbird nest boxes and predator guards on Central Tract, especially the pond area, where many predator guards either didn't exist or have slid into or under the water's surface (photo 1).

New volunteer Trevor Siperek is shown (photo 2) pulling a cone guard out of the water and the installation of a newer stovepipe style (Photo 3). The stovepipes were constructed by volunteer Mike Neary who worked with Trevor in the effort to repair and replace nest boxes and predator guards in the pond area.

Staff members Erin Baily, biological technician, and John Bourne, wildlife biologist, volunteered their time to monitor and repair boxes in the meadows area on Central Tract. They also inventoried, numbered and mapped all boxes on Central Tract. With the box locations now well defined, Trevor and the other new CT volunteer monitors Sandra Hansen, Susan Bailey and Bryan Bailey could easily find, identify and monitor their respective nest boxes. Welcome to the new volunteer nest box monitors and thanks to everyone for all your efforts.

This is what it's all about — chicks soon to fledge (photo 4). To learn more or to become a songbird nest box monitor, please contact Diana Ogilvie, Visitor

Services Park Ranger, Volunteer Coordinator, 301-497-5565, [diana.ogilvie@fws.gov](mailto:diana.ogilvie@fws.gov). Diana provided invaluable logistic support and enthusiasm to the project. 



3. New Stovepipe Predator Guard



2. Pretty Rusty!



4. Soon to Fledge



1. Definitely Wet

## Attention Volunteers

The John Hollingsworth Gallery & The National Wildlife Visitor Center Will Be Displaying the Artwork of Current Volunteers During the Month of December 2017

Gallery guidelines require that all artwork that is exhibited feature wildlife, nature and/or environmental conservation issues. Wildlife/habitat images do not need to be of native species. Domestic animals, pets, portraits, manmade structures, works with a religious or political theme or any image that would not support the mission of the Refuge System would not be acceptable for display.

Any and all mediums are acceptable. Photos, paintings, sketches, textiles, castings, carvings and pottery are wanted. We will have use of the glass case in the lobby for displaying artwork as well as the gallery wall.

Items for the gallery wall should be matted and framed or a gallery wrap that can be hung. Quilts and needle work also need to be hangable unless not designed for this (ex. a pillow or sweater).

The gallery wall consists of 6 display panels that are carpet over plywood. Each panel is 69" wide and 63" high. Each volunteer will be initially limited to 2 pieces of artwork for display in the gallery. If there is extra wall space after the works are hung additional pieces can be submitted.

We have had some awesome volunteer artwork displayed during past exhibits. Plan now to take part in this event.

As December approaches, I will provide additional information on when to bring items to the Visitor Center for the exhibit.

For additional information or questions contact Mary Ann Hartnett, Gallery Coordinator at [2ufrommah@gmail.com](mailto:2ufrommah@gmail.com)

# Patuxent Hosts Brazilian University Students

Lowell Adams, Board Member, Friends of Patuxent

For many years, staff members of the Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center have cooperated with the University of Maryland and Maryland Partners of the Americas in hosting a university student exchange program. The University of Maryland, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, and Universidade Federal Fluminense in Niteroi, Brazil, play lead roles in the 2-week exchange program, which focuses on ecology and natural resources management. Every other year, a small group of Brazilian university students and one or two faculty members travel to Maryland to learn about its educational and academic institutions, environmental NGOs, related government agencies, and research facilities; in the intervening years, a like number of students and faculty from the University of Maryland travel to the state of Rio de Janeiro. The travel-study program is a cooperative effort among the universities and Maryland-Rio Partners of the Americas. It is supported by grants from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U. S. Department of State through Partners of the Americas to its Maryland and Rio Chapters, and by Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Universidade Federal Fluminense, and the University of Maryland.

I took the lead for the program on behalf of the University of Maryland for many years and always included a visit to either the refuge or research center for the Brazilian students. Staff members of the refuge and research center who volunteered time included Nell Baldacchino, John French, David Kidwell, Matt Perry, and others. Students in 2006 and 2008 learned about waterfowl and the Chesapeake Bay. Matt Perry discussed waterfowl research being conducted at Patuxent and guided the students on a tour of captive bird facilities at Patuxent. Students got hands-on experience in netting and handling ducks. Some students practiced “live capture” of a tossed



**Ygor Moreira got some practice with a net gun for capture of wild waterfowl. He felt like he was Rambo.**



**Matt Perry showed students how to net and handle captive waterfowl.**

football (in place of a duck) with a net gun. They quickly learned that it was not an easy task. Students also viewed the dive tanks at Patuxent used to study diving duck underwater activities. Nell Baldacchino hosted student groups for a number of years at the refuge. There,

students toured the exhibits at the visitor center, viewed the butterfly garden and wetlands for treatment of wastewater, and took a tram tour.

A visit to Patuxent Research Center and Refuge is always a highlight for students in the program. 🐦



# 20 Years of Patuxent Waterbird Surveys

By Frank McGilvrey, Volunteer/biologist

**W**eekly surveys of waterbirds on Patuxent began in December 1996 and have continued to the present. The purpose is to record all waterbird species found on Patuxent wetlands and determine trends in the more important species. With 20 years of data I have examined the trends and attempted, where possible, to explain them. Weather during the Winter Quarter (December through February) is most important for migrant and wintering species. The Winter Quarter was divided into hard and mild winters. A hard winter is defined as impoundments being frozen 2/3's of the quarter. Eleven hard years and nine mild winters were recorded. Notable cold winters were 2003, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2014, and 2015. Record warm winters were in 2008, 2012, and 2016. Prolonged drought can be a factor. Serious drought years occurred in 1997, 1998 and 1999. Other years with significant dry periods included 2002, 2007, 2010 and 2016. Nesting species are impacted by dry conditions, especially in spring and summer. Predation on eggs and young is also an important factor.

Waterfowl species analyzed included Canada goose, wood duck, mallard, black duck, hooded merganser and ring-necked duck. All except the ring-neck duck have resident and migrant populations. The Canada goose is the most abundant species. The resident population is derived from several pairs cannon trapped on Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in 1946, pinioned and released on Patuxent. Migrants arrive in October and depart in March. Peak years were 1998, 1999, 2005 and 2011. Low years were in 2003, 2015, and 2016. The resident population has steadily decreased. The wood duck is the most common duck on Patuxent. A breeding population is supplemented by spring and fall migrants. It is rarely recorded between the very beginning and end of the winter quar-



**Mallard**

ter. There has been no apparent long term trend. Peak years were 1997, 2001, 2009, and a record peak in 2016. Low years were 1999, 2002, 2003, and 2014. The mallard has a small nesting population supplemented by migrants in fall, winter, and spring. Winter populations are highly dependent on weather. Resident populations are derived from game-farm releases that began in Maryland in the 1930s. The nesting population is declining. Peak years were 1998 through 2002. Every year thereafter has recorded a decline. Nest predation by raccoons is a significant cause. Black duck population trends have been in tandem with mallards, but with considerably smaller numbers. They have almost disappeared as a nesting species. The hooded merganser is a recent addition as a nesting species. It first began to appear in wood duck nest boxes about 1970. It has maintained a nesting population of six to eight pairs. They are also a spring and fall migrant. This species has decreased steadily since 2006. The ring-neck duck is a migrant and the only significant non-resident species. Numbers have fluctuated significantly. Peak years were 2006, 2007, 2013, and 2014. Low years were 1999, 2005, 2010, and 2015. About 15 other species of waterfowl are spring and fall migrants. Numbers are too small to determine trends.

Among other significant waterbird species is the pied-billed grebe. It is pri-



**Great Egret**

marily a spring and fall migrant with a small nesting population. A brood is seen about every two or three years. It does not winter. Peak years were 2000, 2013, and 2016. Low years were in 2003, 2007, 2009, and 2014. There does not appear to be a long term trend.

The belted kingfisher is a year around resident. There did not appear to be any migrants. It is very territorial and more than one bird is rarely recorded on an impoundment. They excavate nesting burrows in the river banks. The population has been very volatile for no apparent reason.

Shorebird species are most common during spring and fall migration. Numbers are dependent on bare areas exposed by dry spells and impoundment drawdowns. The killdeer is the only year around species, with a small nesting population and attempts by a few birds to winter. Numbers have been stable with the exception of drought years in 1998 and 2013 when numbers far exceeded the 20 year average. The Wilson snipe is the only other shorebird with high enough numbers to examine. It is also most common in dry years. Other species found in small numbers during migration include spotted, solitary and least sandpipers, and greater and lesser yellowlegs.

Common wading species are great blue heron, green heron and great egret. The great blue heron is a year

*Continued on page 18*

Photo by Ross Feldner

Photo by Ross Feldner

## Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

The 2017 Holiday Bazaar will be held **Saturday, November 4** from 9 to 3 at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

The Bazaar committee needs your help as we get closer to the event.

How to help:

Join the committee - we need volunteers to:

- work on advertising the Bazaar. A resource list is available and most of the work could be done online.
- manage the Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar Facebook page.
- plan the setup of Candy Cane Lane (Kid-friendly shop and family activities area).

Bring in donations for Baldy's Bargains - it's not too early.

When you drop donations at the Visitor Center, PLEASE remember to fill out a donation form and make a copy for yourself. We will NOT be accepting bed linens, posters, flat art, or large frames. Best sellers: books, CDs, DVDs, gift items, small housewares, and holiday items.

The deadline for donations is **October 25**.

LIKE and SHARE us on FACEBOOK at **Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar**.

Mark your calendar and come to help:

- Friday, November 3 - set up, vendor set up, and decorate.
- drop off baked goods and other goodies for the Bake Sale.
- drop off house plant donations for the plant corner.
- Saturday, November 4 - THE BIG DAY - volunteers needed.

For more information contact:

**Brenda Stone at [stonesoop@comcast.net](mailto:stonesoop@comcast.net) or 301-490-0384.**



## Welcome & Thank You - New Friends of Patuxent Members

*Continued from page 7*

Wild Side. With your generous support the event was a tremendous success and we achieved our goal.

- Lowell Adams
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- Apollo Ice
- Nell Baldacchino
- Baltimore Gas and Electric,  
an Exelon Company
- Bayland Consultants & Designers, Inc.
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Pena-Melyk & Ben Barnes
- Three Brothers Italian Restaurant
- Harlan Tucker
- Watkins Nature Center
- Wild Birds Unlimited, Gambrills

*[Our apologies for any omissions or errors.]* 🐦

## Patuxent Trail Ambassadors and Friends



**John Trageser, Marie Delaney, Steve Beasley (chair), Diana Ogilvie (volunteer coordinator), Matt Beziat, Karen Key, Shayla Key, and Saskia Warren (not pictured) join the Patuxent Trail Ambassadors clear debris after flood damage, improve trail access and address invasive plants (multiflora rose) at North Tract, May 2017.**

# 25 Years Volunteering at the PRR

by Steve Noyes

It's hard to believe I've been associated with the Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR) since 1992, when the only tract open to the public was the North Tract. I started out volunteering on the front desk on the then late shift (4-8 pm) on July 4, 1992. This shift was perfect for me; I could come directly from work (at nearby NSA).

Once Refuge staff member Marion Mason learned that I had an interest in birds, I found myself leading bird walks and monitoring bluebird nest boxes. Not long after, staffer Nell Baldacchino learned I was an amateur photographer and I found myself also reporting to Snowden Hall at Central Tract, organizing their slide collection.

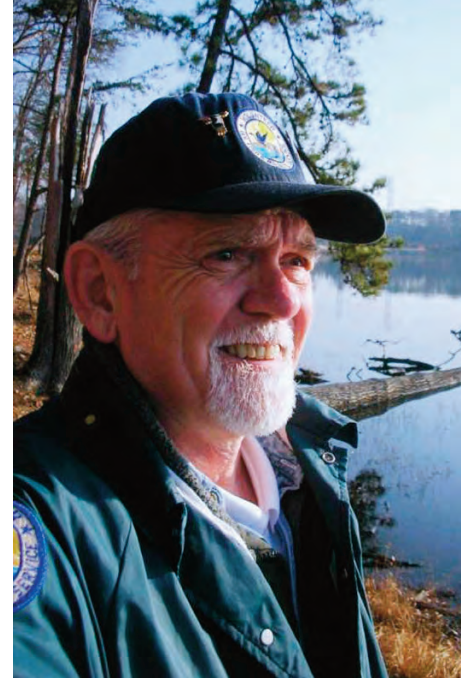
When the Visitor Center opened in 1994, I began spending most of my time there working on establishing an on-line photo data base (for both slides and film imaging) to allow access by Refuge staff. Eventually I found myself involved with a wide variety of volunteer opportunities (photography, bookstore, outreach, lead-

ing bird walks, teaching a basics of birding class, tram tour interpreting, and managing the nest box monitoring program, among other things).

I retired from NSA in 1995 and began volunteering several days a week. I was so happy to be able to spend so much time outside, pursuing my favorite pastime—photographing nature! Who cares if I wasn't getting paid.

An unexpected bonus was meeting my future wife Jody, who was a volunteer and shared my love of nature. Being single all my life, I had wondered if I'd ever find someone to spend the rest of my life with, someone who shares my passion for nature.

The Refuge System offers so many opportunities to educate the public about conservation and protecting our native wildlife and habitats. Public activities like fishing, birdwatching, photography, hunting, wildlife viewing are all offered at the PRR. I don't know of a more dedicated cadre of volunteers than those found at the PRR.



Although health issues have put us both on hold the past couple of years, we hope to soon return to our volunteer time at the Refuge. I hope to see everyone in the months to come. 🐦

## Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 4, 2017 • 9AM to 3PM

National Wildlife Visitor Center

### VENDORS WANTED

\$10+15% of sales for a 6 ft. table/space  
additional table/space - \$15

All event proceeds go to support Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

If you are interested in being a vendor or know someone that would be interested in being a vendor.

PLEASE contact Mary Ann Hartnett at  
[2ufrommah@gmail.com](mailto:2ufrommah@gmail.com)

## Staff Alert

Artwork by the  
current staff of PRR  
(FWS & USGS) will be  
featured in the  
Hollingsworth Gallery  
January 2018  
more info to follow.

## Sights Around the Refuge

Photos by Matt Beziat



*Eastern Tiger Swallowtail*



*Eastern Tailed Blue*



*Virginia Bluebells*

## Summer Exhibits 2017 in the Hollingsworth Gallery

Summer in the gallery should be perfectly lovely. We'll be graced with the work of former exhibitors, Yud-Ren Chen in July, and his wife Jing-Ji Chen in August. 2013's first place winner in the Wildlife Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Photo contest was just one recognition for nature photographer Rick Dove, whose work appears in September.

Halfway around the world from his present home in Laurel, Yud-Ren Chen was born and raised in Taiwan. He graduated from the National Taiwan University in Taipei. A scholarship from the University of Rochester in New York allowed him to earn a Ph.D. in Mechanical and Aerospace sciences. After "serving a short stint in college teaching," he "took up" a career with the US Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, where intensive research involvement in advanced digital image processing led to his interests in digital photography and photo editing. Since retirement in 2007, Chen and his wife have traveled extensively with the TAPC (Taiwanese-American Photo Club). Their visits around the world have provided "countless opportunities

for interesting subject matter." Chen writes that this year's exhibit will include wildlife from abroad including migrating snow geese, pelicans and other birds, penguins, sea lions and mountain goats. He'll also include shots taken over the years in US National Parks and Wildlife Refuges.

Following her husband's July exhibit is watercolorist, Jing-Jy Chen's in August. She too, was born, raised and educated in Taiwan. Her first college degree is in Chinese Literature from Taiwan Normal University and her second, a Master's in Education from the University of Rochester. During her college years, she began to paint. Her work is in watercolor and is characterized by "bold brushstrokes" and "subtle use of color" - balancing these with negative space. Chen has combined her talents as artist and educator as an "Artist-in-Residence" for Maryland schools where she instructs students in Asian art and its techniques. Using bamboo brushes, sumi ink and watercolor, they work on individual and group projects. We look forward to her "eye for nature's internal beauty and fresh expression of the world around us."

Rick Dove grew up in Bowie and took his first photography class at Bowie High School. His teacher was, ironically, also a Mr. Dove - but no relation. Dove writes that he's never stopped learning and the "fun never stops," and that like in any profession or hobby, there are many types of photography as well as many skill levels. Now retired, he has more time to experiment with different techniques and enjoy his craft. On weekends, he says, he can usually be found in one of Maryland's "vast array" of parks, where he can relax in the middle of a forest away from a hectic world, a place where he can capture the "Awe and Wonder" of nature. Dove's cameras have been Kodaks and Nikons, and he currently prefers a Nikon D800 - but has been known to grab his cell phone for a quick shot. Rick Dove's photos have received recognition and numerous awards in Maryland and Virginia as well as inclusion in magazines like "This is Living" and "Photography Nation."

As if we needed more reasons to visit Patuxent refuge this summer, the Chens and Dove give us three more. 🐦

# Meet Recreation Assistant Kaitlyn Baligush

## Hello Friends!

If you haven't already seen me around, my name is Kaitlyn Baligush. I became the second recreation assistant in June. Like others before me, I started out at Patuxent as an intern. Before that, I served two AmeriCorps terms, first with the U.S. Forest Service in West Virginia (Monongahela National Forest) and second with the Maryland Park Service in Upper Marlboro (Merkle Wildlife



Noh Forest, Tanzania



Sanctuary). I haven't been able to travel outside the East Coast much, except for that time I went to Africa.

I have an unusual work week which is split between the Visitor Center and North Tract. If you haven't been to the north tract yet, please stop by! (It's right off Rt 198)

When I'm not working, I'm usually at home painting. Although sometimes I bring my hobbies to work, like that other time when I painted a huge mural for the Forest Service. Please visit my online portfolio to see the full mural and more! 🐦

<https://kaitlynbaligush.carbonmade.com>

**We invite you to join!**

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programs at Patuxent**



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# Meet Environmental Education Coordinator Tim Parker

**M**y interest in the outdoors began as a child playing in a small riparian habitat just outside of my neighborhood in eastern Virginia. The plot of land was too wet for developers and it became the de facto haven for kids seeking out snakes, bugs, or whatever adventure we had created in our minds.

In college I studied secondary education at Asbury College in Kentucky. Just as instructive, was my summer work guiding backpacking, caving, and rock climbing trips throughout eastern Tennessee. After a few years working as an electrician and substitute teacher I began graduate school in the hope of finding a career path that would involve outdoor education. My studies began at Wheaton College where our program was modeled on expedition learning practices of Outward Bound. From there I transferred to Minnesota State University to finish a master's degree in Experiential Education. My research focused on the educational models practiced by John Dewey, Kurt Hahn, and Lord Baden Powell during the early 20th century.

After completing my master's degree I began teaching environmental education at residential outdoor schools in California. At most of these programs, students in 6th grade visited the school for three days and two nights and studied ecology, entomology, ornithology, geology, and botany. The most rewarding aspect of this work was serving as a mentor teacher for three years at Sierra Outdoor School. While there I met weekly with different interns to review their teaching methods and to provide new ideas for their programs.

Prior to arriving at Patuxent I worked at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Desert



National Wildlife Refuge Complex in southern Nevada, primarily stationed at Moapa Valley and Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuges. I was responsible for operating a visitor center, environmental education, interpretation programs, refuge publications, and managing several volunteers. Some of the highlights of this work included scorpion hunts, eagle watches, reviewing proposals for exhibits, designing interpretive trails, and helping to write and film two refuge movies. One of these films can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/87545027>

I'm very excited about joining the team here at Patuxent Research Refuge. While packing up my education supplies I ran across a student worksheet created here at Patuxent. I couldn't help but consider it an omen of good fortune. 🐦



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## 20 Years of Patuxent Waterbird Surveys

*Continued from page 12*

round resident, with apparently very few, if any, migrants. Nesting rookeries heavily influence numbers. Known rookeries on the refuge were from prior to 1996 until 1998 and again from 2005 until 2013. They disappear during hard winters. Numbers were highest from 2004 until 2012, when they went into a steep decline. A revival began in 2016. The green heron is a spring and fall migrant with a small nesting population. They appear in late March and are usually gone before the end of October. Numbers were low from 2002 until 2010, rebounded over the next three years and then fluctuated until they fell to a record low in 2016. The great egret is a late summer/early fall visitor. It is occasionally recorded in the spring. Numbers are highly influenced by summer impoundment drawdowns. They



Photo by Ross Feldner

**Osprey**

reached peak numbers in 1999 and 2014, and were relatively stable other years. A few, mostly immature, little blue herons appear in years with impoundment drawdowns.

Two raptors, the osprey and bald eagle, are considered waterbird species. The population of bald eagles has risen steadily from a low in 1999 to a high in 2014. This is related to nesting success. Ospreys were occasional fall and spring visitors until a pair nested successfully in 2007. There has been one pair since then and the population is stable. They depart in late summer and return in March. 🦅

## Chandler S. Robbins 1918-2017

*Continued from page 2*

collected data, but he was a scientist who conducted analyses, tested hypotheses, and wrote papers based on the data. Quite a few of those papers are now viewed as essential reading for conservationists. Results from these groundbreaking studies showed us why bird populations grew or declined and formed the basis for models that guided generations of additional studies on how birds respond to their environments on both breeding and wintering grounds.

Many birders knew Chan from his field guides. His guides emphasized the need to identify birds by sound as well as by sight. Chan was an expert in recording bird sounds and calls, and he knew that serious bird counting required identification by ear. Chan likely viewed these guides as part of a larger mission of developing a better-educated community of birders. Chan's unique ability to organize projects that used citizen scientists to gather data led to some of his greatest accomplishments. Chan was a tireless advocate of bird clubs and birding activities, especially those that also met conservation needs. He was fearless in taking on data management and administrative tasks for major programs such as Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Atlases, Phenology data, nest record cards, Breeding Bird Censuses, and for a variety of other bird counting activities that rely on volunteers, and he had a profound effect on mobilizing the birding community as a force for conservation. Encouraging young and indigenous scientists was important to Chan; a surprising number of prominent ornithologists in North and Central America were motivated to become professional ornithologists after spending time working with him on field projects.

Chan initiated the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) in 1966. He saw the need for a continental-scale survey of birds that would allow us to evaluate the effects of pesticides and other environmental factors on North American birds. It is difficult to imagine that anyone other than Chan could have had the combination of logistical expertise, contacts in the birding community, and pure stamina needed to recruit thousands of volunteer observers and develop the infrastructure to carry out such a survey with very limited support. He made it successful. The BBS has become the primary monitoring program for birds in North America, with 51 years of data providing population change information for more than 500 bird species. The BBS is the go-to survey for scientific studies of birds in North America. Characteristically, Chan used the survey to conduct groundbreaking studies of immense scientific and societal value. Using BBS analyses, he (with coauthors) documented patterns of population change in Neotropical migrant bird species, a study that has been called "transformative" and was an important impetus for the development of Partners in Flight, an international conservation initiative for migratory birds.

Chan continued to work until very recently, coming into the office nearly daily and working on a variety of projects from albatross banding to BBS analyses, and gave his final presentation to a bird club in November 2016. We will miss his intellect, energy, and enthusiasm, and his quiet, positive approach to life and the joy he brought to the study of birds.

For more information about Chan's career: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/robbins/>

If you are interested in attending the Celebration of Life and Contributions of Chandler S. Robbins, contact Shannon Beliew at [sbeliew@usgs.gov](mailto:sbeliew@usgs.gov) or 301-497-5551 🦅

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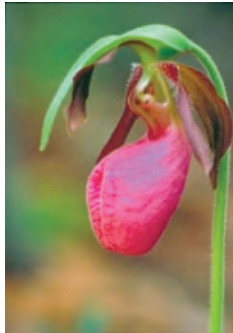
<https://twitter.com/USFWSNortheast/status/78546358377783296>

### Chair's Comments

Continued from page 1


that goes for all wild critters and plants, don't you agree?

I've begun exploring ways to help save habitat or create it - there are lots of ideas, and they are fun. Won't you join me in making a difference? Start



small, like at the computer - find out where your favorite plant or critter makes its home; what food it likes to eat; whether it migrates or not. Then think what to do in your own yard - add a bird feeder; create brush for shelter; make a simple garden and add native plants that provide food; put out a bird bath or create a pond; limit insecticide use; keep dead trees (they make great homes for woodpeckers and other cavity nesters, and provide insects for their food); install a nest box.



And you can talk with your family, neighbors and friends - find out if they have a favorite wild critter or plant and offer them ideas to create and save habitat. If you have children or grandchildren, get them involved in creating or improving habitat - they like to plant seeds and watch butterflies and hummingbirds visit the flowers. To get family members, friends and neighbors excited about wildlife, invite them to Patuxent Research Refuge and show them around. Sign up with your friends or neighbors for a bird walk. Invite them to enjoy a conservation tram ride - it's free. And one more suggestion - invite people you know to join the Friends of Patuxent to support the Refuge and Research Center. Thank you for making a difference - for helping save wildlife. 

#### FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

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#### 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 for this fiscal year are: June 20 (by phone); July 18; September 19; Oct. 17 - General Membership Meeting.

## JOIN TODAY!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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*(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.*

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# 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:***

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- 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

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