

A quarterly newsletter for Volunteers and Friends of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Patuxent Research Refuge



FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

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January-February-March 2018

Keeping A Tradition Alive

Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager

I am sure most of you are familiar with the “Three Rs.” Reading, writing, and “rithmetic,” right? I always thought it a bit strange that two of the three “R’s don’t even start with “R,” but learning them as a youngster, I wasn’t going to push back – I just went with the flow. It was not until I came to Patuxent Research Refuge in 2000 that I learned there was another set of the “Three Rs” germane to our North Tract. Pertaining to the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on these former military lands, those three Rs were – “Recognize, Retreat, and Report.” This is part of our Education Program we are mandated to operate for the general public, contractors, and other visitors to the North Tract to make sure they respond appropriately when they encounter a UXO.

Then, lo and behold, here in 2017, there is yet another iteration of the “Three Rs.” This is an initiative by the current Administration to increase the number of Americans pursuing hunting as a past-time through RECRUITING, RETAINING, AND REACTIVATING. After being relatively stable for decades, since 2012, the number of Americans that hunt has dropped by around 2 million people, and hunters now make up less than 10 per cent of the U.S. population. This initiative hopes to halt this notable decline in hunter numbers.



Photo: Amanda Hardswick

Shelby Aguila with her 10 point buck

So let’s look at each of these Rs by themselves. Recruiting is aimed at engaging new people – particularly youth – in hunting. The refuge’s cooperating association – the Meade Natural Heritage Association – operates our annual hunt program, which averages

Continued on page 2

Friends 2017 Annual Meeting

by Jeanne Latham, Vice-chair of the Friends

It was a dark and stormy night – and it really was. And dedicated and brave Friends members, volunteers, guests, and Research and Refuge staff trekked to the National Wildlife Visitor Center of Patuxent Research Refuge for the Friends Annual Meet-



(left to right) Rich Dolesh, Chair of the Friends; Bob Schroeder, Treasurer; Jeanne Latham, Vice-chair; and Mark Belton, Secretary of the State of Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources.

Continued on page 9

Inside...

Friends Members Tour	Loud Shoutout for Nestwatchers
Masonville Cove 3	Everywhere 7
Winter in the Hollingsworth Gallery ... 3	2017 Waterbird Nesting Season..... 8
Aircraft Pilots at Patuxent (Part 2) 4	Owls at Wildlife Images 10
Patuxent Research Refuge Cavity -	2015-2017 Annual Report..... 12
Nesting Songbird Comparison for	Volunteers Honored at the 2017
2016-2017 6	Appreciation/Awards Dinner..... 14
Night on the Wild Side	Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar 17
2018 Preview 7	Around the Refuge 17

Keeping A Tradition Alive

Continued from page 1

around 6,000 hunting visits each year. They typically sell around 600 hunting permits a year, with about 60-70 of those permits going to youth hunters at a discounted fee. We offer several different youth hunts each fall – typically one for waterfowl, and two for deer – as well as youth turkey hunts during the spring season. Participation in the fall youth hunt days has been low, and we are exploring strategies to increase youth participation. We are also hoping to host a DNR sponsored “Women in the Outdoors” event at Patuxent, aimed at getting women involved in hunting, as well as other forms of outdoor recreation.


Retaining is directed at getting folks that DO hunt to CONTINUE hunting. The reasons for hunters leaving the ranks are many – in general, it shows the aging of the population. There are also concerns with rising costs, difficulty finding areas to hunt, the downward trend in leisure time many people are experiencing, etc. Offering a variety of hunting experiences and easy access is key to hunter retention. We

do a pretty good job of retaining our Patuxent-based hunters as some have hunted here since before the North Tract became refuge 26 years ago!

That leaves Reactivating – trying to reengage hunters who no longer hunt. This is probably the hardest category in which to show progress. Again, there are a multitude of reasons why hunters bow out. I myself – who hunted most every weekend in the fall for over half my life - have not hunted for years, and I miss it dearly. Maybe someday I can be counted among the reactivated. The refuge tries to promote the quality and the variety of hunting we allow at Patuxent, hopefully attracting people that may not have hunted for a while. Our proximity to Fort Meade allows us to attract many hunters who may not have hunted while serving abroad. Reactivated hunters can serve as knowledgeable mentors to those just getting started, and the enthusiasm of newcomers can, in turn, get that mentor excited about being afield again in the legal pursuit of game species.

This new initiative fits well within the National Wildlife Refuge System

(NWRS). Hunting has long been promoted as an appropriate way to control wildlife populations, and also as a legitimate recreational use of a renewable resource on refuges. Through the Pittman-Robertson Act, money spent on firearms, ammunition, hunting licenses and other supplies feeds directly into habitat conservation and other wildlife management activities by state agencies. A U. S. Fish and Wildlife report from 2010 documented over two billion dollars have been generated through this 11% tax on hunting goods since the Act was established in 1937. The habitat acquisition made possible by this money has allowed some species with large ranges such as American black bears, elk, and cougars, to expand their ranges beyond their normal boundaries prior to the implementation of the Act. Other important game species such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and wood ducks have also recovered and increased their populations, courtesy of this Act. These same management actions for game species obviously also benefit countless non-game species such as songbirds, small mammals, native fish, and pollinators.

Keeping this hunting tradition alive is important, not just as a wildlife management tool, not just as an annual recreational pursuit for many people, but also for its profound and widespread conservation benefits. Patuxent and the NWRS will continue to support large numbers of hunters well into the future, and in turn, those hunters’ contributions will continue to be of paramount importance to wildlife conservation in the 21st Century. 

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 Applaud
 and Salute
 Our Volunteers**

Friends Members Tour Masonville Cove

By Jeanne Latham, Vice Chair, Friends of Patuxent

Who would think that you could see a white-tailed deer at the shoreline of the Baltimore Harbor? On September 23, 2017, Friends members and guests visited Masonville Cove in Baltimore City and we discovered an amazing urban refuge with lots of wildlife and habitat. Gathering at the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center, we were greeted by Curtis Bennett, Director of Conservation Community Engagement at Masonville Cove, and guided on a fantastic tour.


Originally a beach front in the 1920's, the Masonville Cove area was restored beginning in 2000 and restoration continues. Currently there are 70 acres of water and 50 acres of land. A key effort has been to connect Baltimore City's residents to the outdoors through a Citizen's Advisory Committee, kayak programs, birding programs, bird walks and commu-



(left to right) Evelyn Kirby, Ken Lavish, Lowell Adams, Jeanne Latham, Richard Karol, Matt Beziat, Tom Kirby, and Joe Gentile. (kneeling) Curtis Bennett, Director of Conservation Community Engagement at Masonville Cove.

nity events to name a few. Masonville Cove staff work with schools and plant native bay grasses. Masonville Cove folks also work with the National Wildlife Federation to plant pollinator gardens at schools. One delight is to see kids observe Monarch butterflies emerge and then see them tagged.

Through the partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Service and using thermal imaging, mammal surveys have yielded finds of ground hogs, fox, white-tailed deer and coyotes, among others. Nest box monitoring and community art at Masonville Cove are some of the many additional opportunities made available to the citizens of Baltimore.

The Friends had the opportunity to hike the trails, take in the displays at the education center, see Baltimore City from the observation platform, and check out some amazing wildlife including: White-tailed deer, Great Blue Heron, Great Heron, Monarch butterflies, Osprey, American Kestrel, Bald Eagle, and Mallard ducks. You too, may want to visit this terrific resource, which is open to the public. For more information about Masonville Cove see: <http://www.masonvillecove.org/index.html>. 

Winter in the Hollingsworth Gallery

Faith Leahy-Thielke, Patuxent Volunteer

Thanksgiving's turkey carcass is now soup, and winter is upon us – but when we all breathe easier on January second, new and varied exhibits will grace our Hollingsworth Gallery. January will showcase the talents of FWS and USGS staff: Abraham Lopez-Thejo, Carlyn Caldwell, Kaitlyn Baligush, Jane Chandler, Jen Chin, Jonathan Fiely, Jenn Malpass, Tim Parker, Jen Hill, and perhaps a few others. February features additional work from Kaitlyn and adds Jan-Michael Archer; March, Lynne Parks.

Many on the refuge staff have artistic talent as well as a passion for its mission. A few of the contributors "weighed in" with some personal background information and descriptions of

the work they'll exhibit. Carlyn Caldwell is a Veterinary Technician at the Veterinary Hospital at Patuxent. She's worked at the refuge for 20 years in a "variety of capacities." A member of the crane crew, she created a retirement gift for Jane Chandler (friend, colleague and crane flock manager). Jane has loaned the cross-stitch of a whooping crane back to Carlyn for the exhibit.

Jenn Malpass describes migratory birds as "nature's ambassadors." She was bird banding at a stopover area in Alabama a few years ago when she was able to take "headshots" of "birds in hand" – truly a unique perspective we'll enjoy seeing. Jenn has multiple degrees – including a PhD. in Fisher-

ies and Wildlife Science from The Ohio State University. She is "uniquely positioned" to address wildlife management activity and engage those less aware of the need for wildlife conservation - like young people and city dwellers.

Kaitlyn Baligush, who will have contributed to the staff effort in January, and Jan-Michael Archer share February. Kaitlyn is a native Marylander from Catonsville who works as a recreation assistant here at Patuxent. During this month we'll see artwork for which she's used a variety of techniques – oil on canvas, wood, and watercolor. Kaitlyn dates her interest in art to tracing images from her middle school library's books on how to draw.

Continued on page 11

Aircraft Pilots at Patuxent (Part 2)

by Matthew C. Perry

Randy did have some close calls and mishaps, including one that involved a fuel cap that was not secured after fueling. The problem was noticed by the fuel attendant after Randy and his observer took off with fuel streaming out behind the aircraft. However, they did not get his radio message because their radio volume was lowered while discussing the flight mission over the northern Minnesota wilderness. Fortunately they landed the float plane to make a ground inspection early in the flight and the problem was noticed and rectified.

Holiday “Holly” Obrecht also had a license to fly, but not for the government. He was always willing to help as an observer on surveys with other pilots, but also flew as needed to help biologists in need of a quick survey or aerial picture. Holly was flying at Patuxent in the 1980s when our deer population was very high. He helped develop some of the ground-breaking surveys with forward-looking infrared (FLIR) devices to find and count deer bedded for the night at Patuxent. Unfortunately, not much heat is given off by a deer when bedded down due to the good insulation properties of their hair. In fact, he learned that there was actually more heat from the ground where the deer were bedded after they moved. Holly also worked with State biologists when surveying Patuxent woods for gypsy moth damage in the 1990s.

One of the more interesting stories of Patuxent pilots is that of Ms. Kit Munson, who was an administrative assistant for Mr. Milt Reeves in the late 1960s and 70s. Kit was the mother of our personnel officer, Mary Maestrelli, and, therefore, mother-in-law of pilot, John Maestrelli. Kit made the newspapers as a female pilot when she was a 21-year old coed at the University of Maryland prior to World War II. She learned to fly in a Piper Cub at College Park Airport



Patuxent biologist, John Maestrelli, in 1972 beside his 1941 Taylorcraft airplane parked at Suburban Airport in Laurel.

(which is the oldest commercial airport in America). She was one of the men and women who learned to fly through the government’s Civilian Pilot Training Act which FDR signed in 1939. The Civil Aeronautics Authority contracted with 435 universities to train over 9,000 men and women during the 1939-40



Research biologist, Jerry Longcore, in early 1990s ready for flight in Vermont to track instrumented black ducks for telemetry studies. Note antenna attached to wing struts. Also note the red-carpet treatment our researchers get!!!



Kit Munson with Piper Cub in 1941 after getting pilot license at College Park Airfield.


school year. The program included 72 hours of ground school and a minimum of 35 to a maximum of 50 hours of flight instruction. Although there is no record of her flying surveys for Patuxent, she will be recorded as not only the first known female pilot at Patuxent, but the first pilot at Patuxent! Over the years, female pilots have become an integral part of this unique profession, at Patuxent and elsewhere around the country.

Numerous biologists at Patuxent have assisted pilots as observers in operational surveys conducted each year, and research investigations have often incorporated aerial survey work in their study design. Pilot-biologists stationed at Patuxent have surveyed the whole Atlantic Flyway each year as part of the mid-winter waterfowl survey. They also flew special canvas-back surveys in the 1970s and special seaduck surveys in the 2000s.

In Maine, numerous surveys were flown by Patuxent biologists Jerry Longcore and Daniel McAuley to learn about the declining population of black ducks in recent decades. Maine is

also one of the areas where helicopters have been used as an alternative aerial platform for surveys to get a better view of the dense wooded habitat where black ducks can easily conceal themselves. In the early 2000s, the Division of Migratory Bird Management (DMBM) replaced many single-engine Cessna aircraft in their fleet with Quest Kodiak 100s. The Kodiaks are operated across the continent in both landplane and amphibious configurations. The reliability and performance of the turbine engine greatly enhance safety and capacity in remote areas, offshore, and in mountainous terrain.

For over 20 years (1982-2005) pilot-biologists stationed at Patuxent were supervised by Jim Voelzer, who as Chief Pilot was stationed in Missouri and then in Oregon. When he retired Jim Wortham, stationed at Patuxent, became the Chief pilot, and in 2014, pilot-biologist, Mark Koneff, formerly stationed at Patuxent as the Population and Habitat Assessment Branch Chief, became the Chief Pilot. When he assumed the role of Chief Pilot, Mark and his plane had already relocated in Maine. The role of the Chief Pilot is an important task to assure all pilots have sufficient training and optimum equipment to conduct their work supporting wildlife management and research in a safe manner.

Overall, I have always had a lot of admiration for all of these pilots and very respectful of how safely they have managed their many responsibilities involved in supporting natural resource programs from the air. There are challenges and dangers associated with every flight and yet, whenever there has been a need for aerial observation of birds for research or management, Patuxent pilots (and observers) have been ready to assist competently and safely, and their work has added significantly to the body of knowledge about populations of waterfowl and other birds and the habitats that support them. 

Official pilot-biologists working at Patuxent Research Refuge

Name	Years at Patuxent	Current Status/ Location
Everett B. "Jake" Chamberlain	1950-60s	Deceased
Don Fricke	1960s	Retired
Morton M. "Mort" Smith	1960-70s	Deceased
Al Novara	1970s	Retired
Ed Ferguson	1974-75	Retired (FL)
William "Bill" Larned	1970-80s	Retired (AK)
Thom Lewis	1980s	Deceased
Carl Ferguson	1980s	Retired (NC)
Doug Benning	1980s	Retired (CO)
James "Jim" Goldsbery	1970s-00s	Retired (MD)
Fred Roetker	1984-86	Retired (LA)
Karen Bollinger	1990-00s	Retired (AK)
Jim Bredy	1990s	DMBM (NM)
John Bidwell	1990s	Retired (MD)
Walt Rhodes	2000s	DMBM (OR)
Terry Liddick	000s	DMBM (SD)
Stephen Earsom	2000s	DMBM (VA)
John Bidwell	1990s	Retired (MD)
Walt Rhodes	2000s	DMBM (OR)
Terry Liddick	2000s	DMBM (SD)
Stephen Earsom	2000s	DMBM (VA)
John Bidwell	1990s	Retired (MD)
Walt Rhodes	2000s	DMBM (OR)
Terry Liddick	2000s	DMBM (SD)
Stephen Earsom	2000s	DMBM (VA)
James "Jim" Wortham	1995-2016	Former Chief Pilot (FL) 2006-13
Mark Koneff	1998-2017	Current Chief Pilot (ME) 2014-17



FWS Chief Pilot, Mark Koneff, with survey observer, Heidi Hanlon, Cape May NWR

Patuxent Research Refuge Cavity-Nesting Songbird Comparison for 2016-2017


By Thomas B. Kirby, Friends & FWS Volunteer

The data shown in the chart below reflects the efforts of the Volunteer Nest Box Monitors over the past two nesting seasons here at Patuxent. This data is from the Volunteers' Patuxent entries into the Cornell Ornithology Lab's National NestWatch Data Base during 2016 and 2017. While a somewhat complex chart, it illustrates each year's result, side by side, for the various NestWatch nesting observables at North Tract (NT), Central Tract (CT) and South Tract (ST) and the PRR Nesting Success Rate as a whole. The lower half shows the same observables at each tract but by species. The 2017 data showed a

welcome gain over 2016 mostly due to a fairly significant increase of 11% at South Tract in the Nesting Success Rate. The reasons for the ST increase is uncertain due to the many variables involved - weather, predator presence or absence, box management, etc. A planned deeper dive into the data may reveal some relevant information.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have spent numerous weeks observing our feathered friends' breeding habits: Erin Bailey, Biological Technician & CT Coordinator; Susan Bailey; Bryan Bailey; Matthew Beziat; John Bourne, Wildlife Biologist; Rod Burley;

Lillian Fazio; Jerry Feldman; Michael Goldberg; Sandra Hensen; Marcia Holden; Thomas Kirby, ST Coordinator; Ken Lavish; Frank McGilvery; Mike Neary; Jay Pape, NT Coordinator; Trevor Siperek; Marnie Whitlock; Graham Williams; and not least, Diana Ogilvie, Volunteer Coordinator.

We are already thinking about the effort for 2018. Stay tuned for the training class to be held in mid-March, 2018. It is important to learn the correct techniques to monitor birds, but also how to enter data in the NestWatch database, which can be done at home on your personal computer. 

2016 / 2017 Cavity Songbirds' Nest Box Monitor Results
Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR) at North Tract (NT), Central Tract (CT) and South Tract (ST)

	2016 / 2017 Monitored Nest Sites	Nesting Attempts At Least One Fledge	Total Nesting Attempts	# Eggs	# Hatched	# Fledged	Nesting Success Rate (%)*
NT	42 / 42	39 / 34	66 / 54	285 / 245	197 / 197	165 / 151	59 / 63
CT	50 / 50	39 / 43	58 / 65	289 / 293	208 / 213	176 / 172	67 / 66
ST	28 / 28	12 / 20	26 / 35	102 / 161	98 / 125	57 / 96	46 / 57
PRR Total							60 / 63

Results by Species


NT	Tree Swallow	6 / 8	17 / 19	73 / 86	31 / 64	26 / 35	35 / 42
	Carolina Chickadee	3 / 1	5 / 1	21 / 5	13 / 5	13 / 5	60 / 100
	Tufted Titmouse	- / 0	- / 2	- / 5	- / 0	- / 0	- / 0
	Eastern Bluebird	30 / 25	43 / 33	191 / 145	153 / 128	126 / 111	70 / 76
CT	Tree Swallow	29 / 30	44 / 48	219 / 188	148 / 145	129 / 124	66 / 63
	Black-Capped Chickadee	0 / -	1 / -	5 / -	3 / -	0 / -	0 / -
	Eastern Bluebird	10 / 11	13 / 20	65 / 69	57 / 60	47 / 44	77 / 55
ST	Tree Swallow	9 / 8	18 / 18	68 / 73	64 / 43	43 / 43	50 / 47
	Carolina Chickadee	- / 2	- / 2	- / 9	- / 9	- / 9	- / 100
	White-Breasted Nuthatch	- / 1	- / 1	- / 4	- / 4	- / 4	- / 100
	Eastern Bluebird	3 / 9	8 / 17	34 / 75	34 / 69	14 / 40	38 / 53

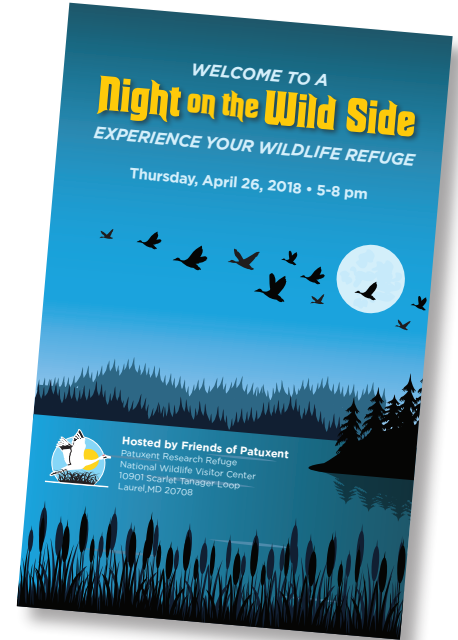
- Indicates species did not nest in area boxes in a given year.

* Nesting Success Rate = Nesting Attempts with At Least One Fledgling ÷ Total Nesting Attempts

Night on the Wild Side 2018 Preview

The Friends will host its third Night on the Wild Side on April 26, 2018. As in the previous two years, our goal is to raise awareness in the community about Patuxent Research Refuge, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Friends of Patuxent. Our hope is to engage folks who have never been to the Refuge or have not been to the Refuge in a long time. We also hope to gain support from community and business leaders for the Refuge and its missions of wildlife research, conservation and education; and attract new members to the Friends.

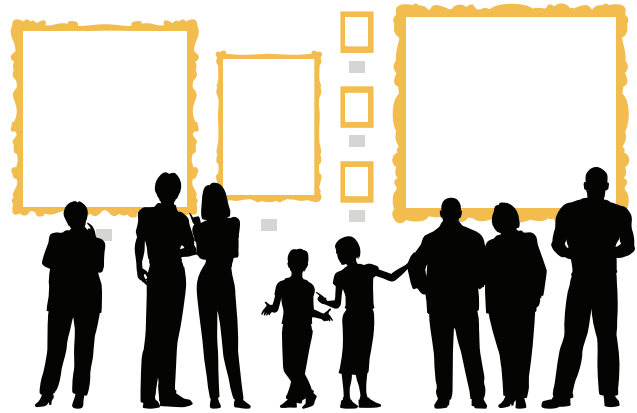
There will be live animals, displays, tram rides, great food and an opportunity to experience the Refuge, which belongs to all of us. And to demonstrate sea duck research at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, we hope to showcase several sea ducks in a portable dive tank. This event will be ticketed and guests will need to sign up through a special email. Stay tuned for more details. 



Loud Shoutout for NestWatchers' Everywhere!

By Thomas B. Kirby, Friends & FWS Volunteer
From the NestWatch eNewsletter, November 2017

Congratulations to our NestWatcher citizen scientists here at Patuxent, known locally as 'nest box monitors' and those nationwide who got a big shout-out in the prestigious journal, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The University of Connecticut research describes the effects of a warming climate for 110 North American bird species with data from 47,023 monitored nests in the NestWatch database. The study found that at the fringes of the breeding grounds across species, warming climate is beneficial in the colder parts of the breeding range but harmful in the warmer parts of the breeding range. A second part of the study showed that a warming climate has both a spatial and temporal effect on these birds; they either move to higher, cooler elevations or they breed earlier in the season. See the eNewsletter story at 'nestwatch.org', it provides a link to the actual UCONN research article.



Artists of the Month Patuxent Volunteers

December brought a special treat—a veritable potpourri of volunteer's talent. Volunteers exhibiting included: Lucy and Ed Grimes, photography; Louis Buck, carving; Barbara Buck, paintings; Brenda Stone, quilting; Dennis Hartnett, photography; Mary Ann Hartnett, needlework; Pat Simons, photography; Emily Mitchell, photography; Evelyn Kirby, quilting; Thomas B. Kirby, bronze sandcasting, carving and painting; Kirsty Johnson, photography; Elizabeth Olson, photography; Ron Clements, carving; Matthew Beziat, photography; Joe DiGiovanni, carving and Ross Feldner, photography.

Thanks to all who participated in this exhibit.

The 2017 Waterbird Nesting Season

Frank McGilvrey, Volunteer Biologist

We have monitored the reproductive success of resident water bird species for 22 years. Methods include spring pair counts, broods/nestlings, and, for wood ducks, nest box checks. Species monitored include Canada goose, wood duck, mallard, black duck, hooded merganser, pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, bald eagle and osprey.

Weather is an important component in reproductive success. The winter of 2016-17 was mild for the second consecutive year, after two hard winters. December was the second warmest on record, after last year and February was the warmest on record. There was only two weeks of ice and no snow. Spring was also mild, with April the warmest on record.

A summary of high points for each species follows.

Canada Goose – After a record low pair count of 99 last year, the count increased to 114 in 2017. All the increase was on North Tract. Record low counts of 10 pairs on South Tract and 54 on Central Tract continued. Nesting was a disaster! A very dry February was followed by a very wet late March. Combined with outlet structures being plugged by beavers, water levels rose to flood most of the island nests. Only 13 broods, three which came from osprey platforms, were recorded. Fifty six goslings fledged. This followed 32 broods and 150 goslings last year.

Wood Duck -Pair counts equaled last year's low of 57. The peak was 82 on 2005. The 32 nests found in boxes continued the low numbers that commenced in 2014. The peak was 71 in 2005. We now have only 55 boxes. Most nesting on Central Tract is in natural cavities on the Patuxent River. Rearing success was poor. Thirteen broods were recorded, which included



Wood Duck



Osprey

three cavity hatched broods. Fifty-five ducklings were fledged. Last year we had a record high of 15 cavity hatched broods, all but one on Central Tract. About 145 ducklings fledged last year.

Hooded Merganser - The resident population of hooded mergansers crashed. Only two pairs were recorded. For the first time, there was no nesting in boxes. We had a peak of six box nests in 2006. One cavity hatched brood was recorded.

Mallard – Pair counts continued to increase to 27 in 2017 from a low of 12 in 2012. Only two broods were seen compared with seven last year.

Black Duck – The species continues to barely hang on as a resident with two pairs and no broods recorded.



Hooded Merganser




Bald Eagle

Pied-billed Grebe – After last year's record of four broods, none were seen this year.

Great Blue Heron – There has been no known nesting since a colony was deserted in 2014.

Osprey - There was no change with one pair and one nest recorded; the same since 2006. Although successful every year, there has been no increase in population.

Bald Eagle – The one pair we have had nesting since 2014 successfully fledge two young this year. 

Friends 2017 Annual Meeting

Continued from page 1

ing, a general membership meeting on the evening of November 7, 2017. From 6 to 7 PM, we talked together in the Visitor Center lobby and enjoyed delicious food catered by Maggiano's Little Italy of Columbia, Maryland. Everyone had the opportunity to get up close and personal with our resident male gray morph Eastern Screech Owl and female American Kestrel. Then, at 7 PM we gathered in the auditorium for the evening's program, which was enhanced by the newly renovated audio-visual system.



Charlie Deegan, Director on the Friends Board of Directors and Mark Belton, Secretary of the State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources.

Jeanne Latham welcomed everyone and thanked them for traveling on this rainy and windy night. Rich Dolesh, the newly elected Chair of the Friends, introduced the 2018 Friends Officers: Jeanne Latham, Vice-chair; Sparky Sparks, Secretary; and Bob Schroeder, Treasurer. He also introduced the Directors of the Friends Board: Lowell Adams, Charlie Deegan, Ken Lavish, Dale Mangum, Matt Perry and Barbara Richman-Kahn. Brad Knudsen, Patuxent Research Refuge Manager and John French, Director of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center each provided a few remarks about recent happenings at Patuxent. Then, Charlie Deegan introduced our guest speaker, Mark Belton, Secretary of the State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Belton presented "Maryland's State Wildlife Action Plan," and shared some fascinating projects and approaches by the state for wildlife conservation. Jeanne Latham summarized the Friends Annual Report, which is included in this newsletter in its entirety. 

Welcome and Thank You New Members

(Since June 2017)

Michael & Maria Addison
Ziaul Ahmed
Shannon Armendariz
Christina Ayala
Mackenzie Beatrice
Marilyn Burford
Janet Fowler
Robert Fowler
Tom Franklin
Elliott Hamilton
Michelle Hannon
Richard Karel
Flo Kennedy-Stack
Peter Kirchgraber & Lisa Logan
Melanie LaFore
Vic Levi
Elaine Maliniak
Kathy & Jerry Massie
Mary Mattison
Ann Maxwell
Michael Metz
Scott & Regina Parker
Barbara Patoka
Alex Shaver & Megan Mekoli
Darryl Shelton

Thank You Renewing Members Friends Members *(Since June 2017)*

Ann & Bob Coren
Laura Coughlan
Barbara Dahlberg
Charles Dilla
Ann Dixon

Julie Dunlap
Stephanie Everett
Glenda Kamosa
Bernd & Lucy Kiekebusch-Steinitz
Sinha Jayasuriya
Mayor & City Council of Laurel
Gail Melson
Debbie Phillips
Sue Priftis
Graeme Simpson
Susan & Steve Unger
Penny Wolkow

Thank You - New Lifetime Friends Members

Eric Zanot

THANK YOU for your DONATIONS to the Friends *(June through November 2017)*

Mackenzie Beatrice
Joseph Carmel
Stephanie Everett
John & Greta Harper
Ellen Kowalski
Jeffrey Malcolm
Gail Melson
Mid-Atlantic Hiking Club
Nancy Newman-Pape
Joan Nolan
John & Lola Peebles
Bernd & Lucy Kiekebusch-Steinitz
Penny Wolkow

[Our apologies for any errors or omissions.]

Calling for Your Articles and Photos Please

We're looking for articles—your articles—and cool photos for future Friends newsletters. You don't have to be a professional writer. Just jot down a paragraph or two about a nature topic dear to your heart. Or send us a photo or two of a beautiful plant, wildlife, or people at a Refuge or Friends events



Please consider sending us your article and/or your photos for your next newsletter. Make sure to title your article and include your name and volunteer position. When you send it, put Newsletter Article in the Subject Line of your email. We'd like to hear from YOU. Here's where to send them: ross.feldner@verizon.net **Thank you so much!**

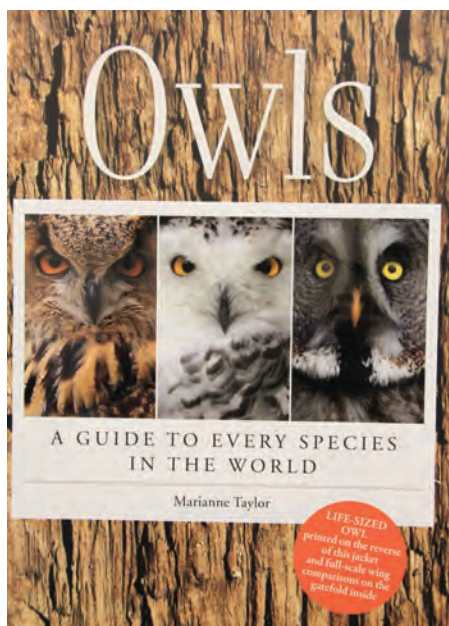
Owls at Wildlife Images

By Pat Simons

Owls. Mysterious, wise, omens of misfortune or death, human-looking, thoughtful, and even comical—owls are represented in many ways around the world. At the Wildlife Images Bookstore in the Visitor Center, you will find a number of books and other items, for children and adults, to take you further into the world of owls. What do you know, or want to know about these mysterious birds? How many owl species live in North America? What is the smallest owl species and where in North America does it live? What owls live in South America, North America, Africa, Europe, Asia, the frozen north or the tropical south? Which owls are nocturnal, which diurnal? And which might you see here in Maryland, and here on the refuge?

Reference Books and Guides

Owls, A Guide to Every Species in the World by Marianne Taylor. This over-sized book is a guide to the 225



recognized species of owls around the world. Each owl is shown with a color photo, a profile including descriptive information about its size, plumage, vocalization, nesting habits, distribution, habitat, and status (e.g. Least Concerned, Vulnerable, Endangered). This book is a great reference and with its beautiful photographs and simple layout would look beautiful on a coffee table and be a great conversation starter. As an extra bonus, the book jacket is a fold-out poster with a life-sized photo of the Great Gray Owl.

The Great Horned Owl, An In-Depth Study by Scott Rashid. This comprehensive book, with numerous photographs, includes chapters on the anatomy, distribution and range, vocalization, nesting habits, hunting and food preferences, and rehabilitation of Great Horned Owls. It includes a bibliography of references and a glossary of scientific names.

Small Mountain Owls by Scott Rashid. This fascinating book provides detailed information with color photographs and drawings of four species of small mountain owls found in the Rocky Mountains—the Flamulated Owl, the Northern Pygmy-Owl (only seven inches from head to

tail), the Northern Saw-whet Owl, and the Boreal Owl. The author has spent nearly thirty years in Colorado—banding, researching, photographing, and painting a variety of bird species. The book combines extensive information about each owl—anatomy, vocalization, courtship, nesting, hunting, diet—with the author's personal experiences in the field.

The Eastern Screech Owl, Life, History, Ecology, and Behavior in the Suburbs and Countryside by Freder-

ick R. Gehlbach. This book is, as the title suggests, a comprehensive study of the Eastern Screech Owl, comparing rural and urban populations.

Sibley's Owls of North America.

This waterproof, folding guide includes photos of 19 North American owls, along with tips for how to spot owls.

Books for Children

Owls (an Usbourne Beginners book) combines simple text with colorful pictures, and fun facts in a perfect introductory book for young children, answering questions such as: What do owls eat? How do owls find their way in the dark? How do owls talk to one another? How do owls that live in warm climates cool down? What are baby owls called? What is the smallest owl?

Good Luck Baby Owls by Giles and Alexandra Milton. Illustrated with collage paintings, this book, in simple, lyrical text, tells the story of two baby owls learning to fly. The book ends with Daddy Owl telling the two baby owls, "You can fly to the heavens, you can fly to the moon. Good luck, baby owls—but fly back soon!"



Otis the Owl by Mary Holland. With beautiful photographs, this book tells the story of a baby barred owl's first few months of life. We see Otis's fluffy feathers and huge eyes as he grows bigger and bigger, learns to eat and finally is ready to learn to fly. The book includes four pages of learning activities as well as online resources for more activities.

Baby Owl's Rescue by Jennifer Keats Curtis and illustrated by Laura Jacques tells the story of how two children, who find an owl in their backyard, learn how to care for it until it is found by its mother and returns to nature. This book also includes learning activities and online resources.

The Ghost of Donley Farm by Jaime Gardner Johnson and illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein tells the story of Rebecca the red-tailed hawk and Bernard the barn owl meeting and getting to know each other, The story moves along quickly as Rebecca and Bernard compare how they are different and similar, exploring characteristics such



as their beaks, talons, legs, feathers, and hunting habits.

The Bookstore is More Than Books

The Wildlife Images Bookstore is always more than books—with a wide assortment of nature-themed gift items for adults and children. Here are just a few of the fun and educational owl items on hand.



Just arrived is a four-piece set of maple wooden blocks. Each block has a picture of a different owl, and lettering across the blocks spells out OWLS. This set would be a fun gift for children or adults.

Puppets. We have small finger puppets that include Barn, Great Horned, and Screech owls, and larger Folkmanis hand puppets that include Barn, Saw-whet, and Snowy owls.

Other owl imprinted items include t-shirts and sweatshirts; a new owl decorated coffee mug; our always popular "Advice" magnets and bookmarks; Freeman bookmarks; puzzles; canvas art prints; painted gourd ornaments; owl posters; and more. 🦉

Winter in the Hollingsworth Gallery Continued from page 3

Later course work included rolling film and developing her own photos in a dark room, but oil paint remains her "go-to" medium.

Also scheduled this month is Patuxent intern, Jan-Michael Archer of Laurel. Archer has an impressive and varied background – undergraduate biology degree from the University of Tampa and a master's in interdisciplinary ecology – with a concentration in urban and regional planning from the University of Florida. He spent nine months as a graduate research assistant at the Florida Museum of Natural History in the Herpetology Department. Currently, he supervises Baltimore students pursuing degrees in life or physical sciences for the Urban Conservation and Education Internship Program. While at Patuxent, Archer has served as an environmental educator for K-12 students in Fairfax County. In this role he planted schoolyard habitat gardens and taught a program on ecological principles as well as wildlife conservation in cities.

Lynne Parks, our March exhibitor, is a well-recognized photographer and avian conservation activist. Although she was born and raised in northern Virginia, she resides and works in Baltimore. She describes her photography as "found abstractions" – compositions created only in the viewfinder of her camera. She is presently Outreach Coordinator for "Lights-Out Baltimore" – an organization whose mission is an effort to reduce the number of bird/building collisions. Parks is the 2012 recipient of the Mary Sawyers Baker Prize, an award established in 1964 by a widow to honor her husband, a well-known Baltimore civic leader. The prize winners receive money, are featured on PBS Artworks, and their work is displayed in an exhibit at the Baltimore Art Museum. We anticipate Parks' avian photography as well as her individualistic compositions. The winter exhibits promise interesting viewing. 🦉

2016-2017 Annual Report

By The Friends of Patuxent Board of Directors

The Friends of Patuxent experienced a terrific year this past year of 2016-17. One objective we embarked on last year was to expand our reach to the community, and we have continued to work on this actively. At several local community events, The Friends staffed our display table, talked with many people about the Refuge and the Friends, and gained several new Friends members. We also held a second successful Night on the Wild Side outreach event at the Visitor Center. Another ongoing objective was to support Refuge and Research Center projects, several of which we were able to provide funds toward.

Fundraising / Finances

Wildlife Images, the Friends nature and bookstore, continues to provide terrific merchandise and excellent service to visitors, staff and volunteers. Linda Shive, *Wildlife Images* manager, is always finding new books and interesting items, as well as provide inviting merchandise displays. Thank you, Linda, and the *Wildlife Images* volunteers who keep the bookstore running efficiently. Funds raised through the bookstore during this past year were about \$3,200.00.

The Friends Crane Café, operated by Brenda Sone and supported by dedicated volunteers, was held at the Refuge's 2016 Wildlife Festival, the Friends Holiday Bazaar in November, 2016, and the Refuge Birthday Bash in March 2017. The Café continues to provide an expanded offering of food items, which is welcomed by visitors at the Refuge events. Funds realized from the Crane café this past year amounted to about \$1,050.00.

The Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar was held on November 5, 2016. It was our 6th Bazaar and we had about

600 visitors. We had many returning and a number of new vendors; a variety of treasures in Baldy's Bargains (thrift shop); and lots of fun all around. Funds raised at the 2016 Bazaar were approximately \$2,130.00.



Interpretive programs at the Visitor Center, funded in part by the Friends included a visit from Rodney's Raptors

The Adopt A Whooper (AAW) Committee was again chaired by Ken Lavish. Nearly \$2,150.00 in donation funds were collected this past year and designated to support PWRC's Whooping Crane Program. The Friends AAW program has ended, due to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's decision to end their Whooping Crane propagation program. However, although the Friends AAW program ended, we feel that we were able to accomplish much in terms of supporting the Research Centers goals regarding Whooping Crane propagation. Of note is that from the reinstatement of the Friends AAW Program in 2011, the Friends AAW program raised \$20,000 to support Patuxent's efforts. Observation cameras, Whooping Crane puppet heads to train the chicks, shade trees for the pens, and pen netting were purchased with the funds.

During this past year, Friends funds supported a number of Refuge projects including multiple "Raptors Reign" interpretive programs by Rodney

Stotts, licensed falconer; auditorium, meeting room and other audio-visual renovations; and the installation of the National Wildlife Visitor Center window treatments to prevent bird strikes.

During 2017, a Fundraising committee explored new ways that the Friends could support the Friends' mission to provide support to the Refuge and the Research Center, as well as to complement the strategic planning efforts of the Friends. The Fundraising committee's efforts will provide the board a focus and ideas for short, mid-term, and long-term fund raising goals

Outreach

The Friends held the second Night on the Wild Side on April 20, 2017 at the National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent Research Refuge and it was a huge success. Charlie Deegan, Director on the Friends Board, again chaired the Night on the Wild Side (NOWS) Committee. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the Refuge among community members who may not realize what a local treasure and unique national resource we have in our own back yard. We intended to show local leaders and visitors what the Refuge and Research Center has to offer, so they would be inspired not only to take advantage of the opportunities here, but to invite friends, family members, and business associates to experience the Refuge. We had over 200 attendees and received lots of positive comments. Many people took the conservation tram ride and were impressed with what they experienced – wildlife, beautiful scenery, and interpretation of all of it by a knowledgeable volunteer. Additional highlights that were available to attendees were visiting with Rodney Stotts' (licensed falconer) birds of prey, taking home milkweed seedling plants donated by Bell Nursery to help with recovery of Monarch butterflies,

and sampling delicious foods donated by a number of local restaurants. With sponsorships and donations, Friends realized about \$4,700.00 for this event. Thank you to the committee members, staff and volunteers who made this event a terrific success.

Friends Board members and volunteers participated in several outreach events in the community including National Night Out in Laurel, the Laurel Main Street Festival, and Community Day at the Bowie Branch of Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union. We met many citizens, shared information about the Refuge, Research Center and the Friends, and were told countless times that they have lived in the area for many years and did not know the Refuge existed. We feel that we are succeeding in increasing the visibility of this Refuge, to which we are dedicated and passionate about.

The Friends of Patuxent website and social media feeds, maintained by Sparky Sparks were an important part of the Friends outreach and communications efforts. These online means of communication grew in importance in keeping Friends, volunteers, and the general public informed of Friends initiatives and programs and were a principal means of communication to the public regarding educational programs, special events and festivals.

Education

In conjunction with the Refuge Birthday Bash on March 18, 2017, and under the leadership of Lisa Garrett, Friends member and former Board member, two films were shown as part of the DC Environmental Film Festival: "Spotlight on Bird Conservation" and "Nature's Engineers: The Nest." The films, panel discussion with filmmakers and biologist, and displays were well attended and feedback was very positive. There were about 300 people in attendance.

On the education side the Adopt A Whooper Committee was responsible for conducting several Whooping



Friend's funds helped pay for the Visitor Center's window treatment to help prevent bird strikes.

Crane Observatory tours. These were very popular, well attended, and will be missed since the Whooping Crane Program has ended.

The 2017 Friends of Patuxent Pollinator Festival was chaired by C. "Sparky" Sparks and co-chaired by Rich Dolesh. It was another very successful year. This annual Friends education event, first established in 2015 as the Monarch Festival, was held in the Wildlife Viewing Area of the North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge; and had between 300-325 visitors attend the event in mid-September. This year's event has grown from four information stations in past years to six; with the



Chair Rich Dolesh and two young visitors at the Friends Pollinators Festival

children's Monarch Migration game as in past years, which was a big hit; a satellite *Wildlife Images* bookstore; and new this year - a new display "Pollinators - How They See Differently." All of the displays were manned by volunteers and Friends of Patuxent Board members. Also new this year was a donation from Bell Nurseries - represented by Dale Mangum, who is a Friends Board of Directors member

- of approximately 200 Swamp Milkweed plants to give away free to attending visitors to take home to start or add to their already established pollinator garden. We distributed about 125 plants. The remaining plants will be placed around the Visitor Contact Station on North Tract.

Operations / Membership

During this year, the Membership Committee again worked toward increasing memberships and offering interesting programs for Friends members. Friends members programs this year included the Whooping Crane Observatory Tours, Behind the Scenes Whooping Crane Tour by Ken Lavish and Diana Ogilvie, "Stones, Bones and Metal" by Dennis Green, (exploration of old pre-military building ruins, cemeteries and military places), "Trapping Tigers on Camera" by researcher Jim Nichols, and a tour to Baltimore's Masonville Cove lead by Curtis Bennett.

The Friends realized \$7,781.56 through memberships and donations.

In Memorium

During this past year, two outstanding members of the Friends / Patuxent family passed away. Their presence and contributions will be sorely missed, but always remembered.

Harlan Tucker as Remembered by Rich Dolesh

"The Patuxent community lost one of its most dedicated and long-serving volunteers with the passing of Harlan Tucker, former chairman of the Friends of Patuxent, long-serving board member of FOP, and 30-year volunteer for the refuge and research center. Way back when the vision for the National Wildlife Visitor Center was just becoming a gleam in the eyes of visionary staff and supporters, Harlan was already



Continued on page 18

Volunteers Honored at the 2017 Appreciation/Awards Dinner

Diana Ogilvie, Volunteer Coordinator

The Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Potluck Supper on November 19 attracted more than 85 volunteers, friends, Friends and special guests. In case you missed it, here is a replay in pictures.



Nancy Pape



Mike Goldberg



Brad Knudsen, Patuxent Research Refuge Manager



Friends of Patuxent Board Chair Rich Dolesh



Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System Cynthia Martinez

As guests arrived, Nancy Newman Pape provided incidental music and Mike Goldberg quizzed volunteers on their knowledge of Patuxent.

The music was inspiring, the refuge quiz thought-provoking, the food delicious, and the company invigorating.

After dinner and dessert, new Friends of Patuxent Board Chair, Rich Dolesh, introduced himself and other Board members.

Special guest, Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System Cynthia Martinez, thanked volunteers for their service and acknowledged the impor-

tance of volunteers in the accomplishment of the refuge system mission. She attended the dinner with Mitch Ellis, acting Chief of the Division of Natural Resources, NWRS.

Brad Knudsen, Patuxent Research Refuge Manager, listed his top ten observations of volunteers and related the evolution of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Then we started award presentations. Kaitlyn Baligush presented a special hand-painted award to North tract volunteers, and then the milestone awards began.



Brent Johnson and Joyce Wineland - 25 hours



Tim Reichard - 50 hours



Christina Ayala, Steve Beasley, and Ann Hodgdon - 100 hours



Gail Melson, Nancy Newman Pape - 250 hours



Ross Feldner - 400 hours



Matt Beziat - 500 hours



Frances Kent, Ron Clements, Ellen Bretz, Pat Simons, Tom Mikell - 1000 hours



Tom and Evelyn Kirby - 1500 hours



Stephanie Everett, Lillian Fazio - 2000 hours

New volunteers **Brent Johnson** and **Joyce Wineland** received their 25 hour award (no picture available). The following pictures show awards given for the number of hours listed.

Tim Reichard received his 50-hour award.

Christina Ayala, Steve Beasley, and Ann Hodgdon - 100 hours

Gail Melson, Nancy Newman Pape - 250 hours

Ross Feldner - 400 hours

Matt Beziat - 500 hours

Frances Kent, Ron Clements, Ellen Bretz, Pat Simons, Tom Mikell - 1000 hours

Tom and Evelyn Kirby - 1500 hours

Stephanie Everett, Lillian Fazio - 2000 hours

Bill Gill - 3500 hours

Mike Goldberg - 4000 hours

Pauline Chvilicek, Lewis Jiles - 4500 hours

Jerry Feldman - 7000 hours

Brenda Stone, Ken Lavish, Joe DiGiovanni - 8000 hours

Continued on page 16

Volunteers Honored at the 2017 Appreciation/Awards Dinner,

Continued from page 15



Bill Gill - 3500 hours



Mike Goldberg - 4000 hours



Pauline Chvilicek, Lewis Jiles - 4500 hours



Jerry Feldman - 7000 hours



Brenda Stone, Ken Lavish, Joe DiGiovanni - 8000 hours



Claudia Papillo – 10,000 hours



Jay Pape - Special Award



Stephanie Everett - Volunteer of the Year



Ron Clements - Twenty Year Volunteer

Claudia Papillo – 10,000 hours

Ron Clements - Twenty Year Volunteer

A Special Award was presented to Jay Pape, longtime Songbird Nestbox Survey Coordinator at North Tract as he finishes up his thirteenth year as coordinator and vacates that position to continue his refuge volunteer work in other areas.

The 2017 Volunteer of the Year award came next. Volunteers who have worked 100 hours or more during the year can be nominated by other volunteers, Friends, and staff. This year we received 11 nominations for 6 volunteers - Matt Beziat, Stephanie Everett, Gail Melson, Jay Pape, Joe DiGiovanni and one volunteer who declined his nomination.

This year's volunteer of the year is Stephanie Everett, for her work on developing different Family Fun public programs each month, and incorporating separate age-appropriate hands-on activities for all age groups. She is also recognized for interpreting numerous tram tours and live bird education programs, leading environmental education programs, working on refuge special event planning commit-

Continued on page 19

Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar 2017

By Jeanne Latham, Member of the Friends Bazaar Committee

Shopping for holiday gifts, seeing live birds, and taking a wildlife conservation tram tours were among the activities offered to more than 500 visitors at the November 4th Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar. This year's Bazaar was the Friends 7th one! And it was a great success, thanks in large part to Brenda Stone's terrific leadership as Chair of the Bazaar Committee and Mary Ann Hartnett's coordination of the 20 plus vendors. We also recognize the hard work of the committee members and volunteers who staffed the set-up days and event, as well as the support of the Refuge and Research Center staffs. Volunteers who helped include: Nell Baldacchino, Matt Beziat, Diane Buckley-Maidt, Shannah Cumberbatch, Marie Delaney, Janice Devine, Joe Di-Giovanni, Ann Dixon, Jeannine Dorothy, Stephanie Everett, Dennis Green,



Shannah Cumberbatch and Nancy Morrissey staffing the Friends pay table.



Jan-Michael Archer showing the gray morph Eastern Screech Owl.

Dennis Hartnett, Kirsty Johnson, Tom Kirby, Ken Lavish, Kathy Lynn, Gail Melson, Nancy Morrissey, Michael Neary, Janette Peggins, Gwen Robbinette, Ann Vore, Joyce Wineland, and Ziaul Zannet. (Our apologies if we left out anyone's name.)



Visitors making purchases from vendors.



Dennis Hartnett and the directional pole.

Attendees enjoyed selecting special treasures from the many wonderful independent vendors and Baldy's Bargain thrift shop; finding goodies at the Friends Crane Café and bake sale; the opportunity to take home a plant and support the Friends; getting advice from Master Gardeners and overall fun holiday spirit.

Funds realized from overall sales and vendors amounted to a nice profit this year of over \$2,400. The Friends Wildlife Images bookstore did a good business as well. Thanks to everyone who made this Friends fundraiser a fun and successful event.

Remember to save the date for next year's Bazaar - Nov. 3, 2018. 🦅

Around the Refuge

Photos by Matt Beziat



Monarch Chrysalis at North Tract



Rough Green Snake at North Tract



Broad Headed Sharpshooter at North Tract



Green Frog at North Tract



Yellow Garden Spider at North Tract

2016-2017 Annual Report

Continued from page 13

a staunch supporter of Patuxent. He remained so, tirelessly, till his passing June 17, 2017...

Harlan was an original board member of the Friends of Patuxent from 1992. Harlan eventually became board chair in 1998 and he served in that role till 2009, and remained a FOP board member till his passing in 2017...

Harlan was involved in many of the fundraising events of the Friends of Patuxent as well. He strongly supported the Run for the Refuge, a 5k fun-run that the Friends hosted for a number of years, and also helped with the long-running Patuxent Wildlife Art Show and Sale..."

Chandler Robbins as Remembered by John Sauer

"Chan 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 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...

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/>

Of note, the Friends of Patuxent Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment was established this year to honor his legacy and love of birds. This endowment was requested by the family. The funds will be used to further the appreciation and conservation of birds and their habitats everywhere through education and outreach. A committee representing Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Patuxent Research Refuge, Friends of Patuxent, and a Robbins family member will direct expenditure of the funds. Contributions may be made to Friends of Patuxent for the *Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment* 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708

Thank You

A big thank you to Friends members, volunteers, Refuge and Research Center staff, who helped make the Friends events and activities a success during fiscal year 2016-17. With your help and support, we accomplished what we set out to. 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 en-

couragement, support and assistance to the Friends of Patuxent. In addition, the Friends would like to thank and acknowledge the efforts of all staff of the Refuge and the Center who provided invaluable help to the volunteer efforts of the Friends over the year.

Thank you to the 2016-17 Friends officers, Jeanne Latham, Chair, Rich Dolesh, Vice-chair, Sparky Sparks, Secretary, and Bob Schroeder, Treasurer, for your leadership and guidance to the entire Board of Directors. And thanks to the all of the Board members for your leadership and hard work on various committees this past year, which made our events great successes: Lowell Adams, Charlie Deegan, Ken Lavish, Dale Mangum, Matt Perry and Barbara Richman.

Looking Forward

The Friends will begin this new fiscal year of 2017-18, under new leadership of Rich Dolesh, formerly the Vice-Chair on our Board of Directors. A high priority of the Friends will be to continue filling board vacancies on our Board. We will be searching for individuals with high motivation, key skills and community contacts to fill several vacancies on our Board. For those persons who wish to serve in such a leadership capacity, or have questions about the responsibilities of being a Board member, we encourage you to step up. Feel free to contact any one of the current Board members. Additionally, the Board welcomes and encourages members to join any of the committees, which develop fun activities, fundraising projects, and wildlife conservation education programs. You don't need to be a board member to support the work of the Friends education programs, fundraising, and special events. We also welcome ideas for future projects and activities, as well as suggestions on how to do a better job to serve you, the Friends members.

We hope you will join the Friends of Patuxent in supporting Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and we sincerely thank you for your ongoing support. 🐦

Thank You

Pole system was donated in March 2017, By Wildbirds Unlimited in Gambrills, MD, as well as the feeders




Volunteers Honored at the 2017 Appreciation/Awards Dinner

Continued from page 16

tees and Friends special event committees, and more.

We ended the evening with a grouping of special music written by Nancy Newman Pape to the tune of Fiddler on the Roof's *Sunrise, Sunset* (which also happens to be the hours our south tract grounds are open).

Afterward, we all agreed that ***There are No Places Like Refuges, and No People Like Refuge People.***

Many thanks to the more than 150 volunteers who contribute over 25,000 hours each year to helping us maintain the refuge. Congratulations to the volunteers who reached their latest milestones and thanks to everyone who helped make the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner so enjoyable, from set up, through dinner and awards, to clean up. It was truly a special evening. 

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

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

LIAISONS

- Diana Ogilvie, Patuxent Research Refuge Liaison
- Shannon Belieu, 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 on Jan. 16, 2018; Feb. 20, 2018; Mar. 20, 2018; Apr. 17, 2018; May 15, 2018; Jun. 19, 2018; Jul. 17, 2018; and Sep. 18, 2018. Dates, location and times are subject to change.

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.

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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)