

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 2019

When Does Nature Call You?

By Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager

In the summer of 1978, when I was a seasonal employee of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources -Forest Wildlife Research Division, banding woodcock in Park Falls, I recall a discussion between the forester and the area game manager. Both were avid fishermen in the rivers and lakes of northern Wisconsin. The forester was discussing the virtues of using Solunar Tables – the projected periods of increased wildlife/fish activity during a 24 hour period, based on the interplay of the moon and the sun – to determine when he should go fishing. The forester touted how market hunters used to rely on the predicted “Moon-up, Moon-down” periods to maximize their harvest of fish and game decades ago, and how modern science has perfected that technique to predict the best times to fish. The game manager listened patiently, with an occasional tolerant nod, and then simply replied, “Well, I usually just go fishing whenever I have a chance!” I thought that was a good answer from someone who obviously just enjoyed the time spent outdoors, whether he reeled in a few fish or not.

That is pretty much how I view my opportunities to spend time in Nature. I go whenever I can. If it is hot or muggy, or if the wind is howling, or the snow blowing I may not have the most enjoyable outing. But time spent in Nature



Cash Lake

rarely disappoints. Of course, “perfect” weather days are nice – but sometimes it is interesting to see what you can experience in unpleasant condi-

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Annual Pollinator Festival an Inspiring Success

By Richard J. Dolesh, Chair, Friends of Patuxent

The Friends of Patuxent annual Pollinator Festival at the Wildlife Viewing Area of North Tract on September 22, 2018, attracted nearly 500 people, a record attendance for this family-friendly event. This was the fourth annual festival which began in 2015 as the Monarch Festival and evolved into today’s Pollinator Festival.



Attendance has grown each year at the Festival, principally through social

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When Does Nature Call You?

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tions. I used to love going out in below zero weather in North Dakota, and see what wildlife I would encounter. Hungarian partridge huddled in their little outward facing rings – like tiny feathered musk oxen! Red fox soaking up whatever sun they could behind a rock pile or log. Chickadees fluffed up to twice their size, in a red cedar thicket, staying warm the best they could.

Of course, it also helps to have grown up in a very outdoor oriented family, my mother having grown up on a dairy farm, and my dad having worked for the Wisconsin DNR for over 30 years. They were pretty tuned into the “call of Nature.” On family vacations, we would be immersed in Nature on weeklong camping trips to northern Wisconsin or along the Mississippi River. Day trips to state parks and forests on the weekends were common throughout the year. Even

on our one acre property outside of Madison, Wisconsin, we would make nightly strolls checking on our various vegetable, flower, and native gardens, always looking for the next bloom, the next ripening fruit or veggie, or the next bug or butterfly or snake we would encounter as we walked, with Nature leading the way.



Thinking about how I pursue time in Nature, I am reminded of a one-liner from, I believe, the late stand-up comedian Henny Youngman who said, “I only drink when I’m alone or with

someone else.” Whether you go by yourself (wander wherever YOU want, stop and rest when YOU want, etc.), or with someone else (more eyes and ears to see or hear, experiences to SHARE with that person years later, etc.), there are distinct advantages either way. To be truly alone in Nature can be special, but to enjoy Nature with someone who has the same appreciation for it you do can be just as special.

And when you return home, whether with a friend or by yourself, whether with cold toes or a little sunburn, you will likely reflect on one or two or more moments where you felt especially close to Nature. Maybe as a hawk circled overhead, or as a monarch butterfly drifted by, or as you knelt down to take a closer look at that tiny little wildflower at your feet. There is little

doubt you will feel rejuvenated, you will feel refreshed. And you will feel, that when Nature called, it was better for you to have gone than NOT to have gone at all. 🐢

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

Many of the regular newsletter contributors and assistants are volunteers. 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
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 11811 Ivanhoe Street
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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.



Hundreds Attend “A Day in the Life of...” Festival

By Rachel Johnsen, Volunteer

For many of us, it's not every day that you get to meet an owl up close, feed Long-tailed ducklings diving nimbly in the water or speak with a wildlife officer, biologist and park ranger with years of experience. But on Saturday, October 6, hundreds of people were able to do that and so much more at this year's Wildlife Festival at the Patuxent Research Refuge.

With a theme of “A Day in the Life of...”, this year's event offered a glimpse into the exciting breakthroughs in wildlife research happening every day at one of the country's largest National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Centers. Over 700 people took advantage of the temperate October day to meet wildlife researchers, ride a wildlife conservation tram tour, and see, touch and hear a variety of exhibits that filled the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

The first stop for many people arriving at the festival was this year's special guest exhibit, the Wildlife on Wheels Law Enforcement exhibit, which has educated thousands of people across several states since it started in 2016. Officer Greg Smith, who has served at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, spoke about his many years of experience protecting wildlife. His exhibit also featured animal figures with which many people posed for pictures, including a 10-foot tall mounted moose that dwarfed even the tallest people attending the event.

Crowds of attendees then found themselves greeted right outside of the center by an impressive Red-tailed hawk or Eurasian eagle owl perched on the gloved arm of Falconer Rodney Stotts. Stotts, who regularly holds talks at the refuge and throughout the region, related facts and stories about these birds of prey to a steady crowd of curious onlookers, who posed a continuous stream of questions.

The story of the Bald Eagle's return to the Anacostia watershed was the subject of one of the four featured films that played in the auditorium throughout the day. The watershed underwent a miraculous ecological transformation in the early 2000s, thanks to the efforts of Rodney Stotts and a team of dedicated volunteers with the Earth Conservation Corp. The film, along with three others was premiered in collaboration with the DC Environmental Film Festival.



Photo credit: Chris Allison

Inside the visitor center, dozens of researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey showcased the research they conduct every day at the refuge's Central Tract.

Upon entering the center, you might've seen a rare, native, obsidian-colored wood turtle and learned about efforts to help her threatened species. Walking across the room, you might have found the table where small marbled salamanders settled themselves underneath a damp 6-inch piece of wood. Or you might have spotted the staggering number of species of plants and lichen discovered and documented at the refuge, so far, by volunteer botanist Bill Harms and his plant inventory volunteer team.

One thing you could definitely count on was seeing Bald Eagle and blue goose mascots Baldy and Puddles making their rounds around the center, posing for photos and high-fiving kids who proudly waved around bumble-bee pencils they had just made.

Attendees also had a chance to see the work being done by local conservation groups, such as the Watkins Nature Center in Upper Marlboro, which reaches out to 50,000 visitors each year, and national organizations like the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program, which adjudicated artwork submitted by over 20,000 students in the 2018 Junior Duck Stamp Program contest.

Throughout the afternoon, you could regularly hear announcements for tram rides operated by refuge volunteers. The 30-minute tram rides gave attendees a behind-the-scenes look into the refuge, touring through sections of the South Tract not normally open to the public. Tram rides are regularly offered by the refuge from March to November.

Located thirty minutes from Washington D.C., Baltimore and Annapolis, the Patuxent Research Refuge is the nation's only refuge established to support wildlife research. A short drive from Route 295 transports you to 13,000 acres of wildlands, an experience that seems hard to believe exists in the busy, metropolitan Greater D.C. area.

The Wildlife Festival, which has been held by the Patuxent Research Refuge for many years, is one of refuge's main annual events, but there are plenty of other opportunities for members of the public to engage with this regional treasure. To see which events will be taking place at the refuge next, head over to our Events Page at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/Events.html>. 🐻

A Real Live Wolf at Patuxent Research Refuge!

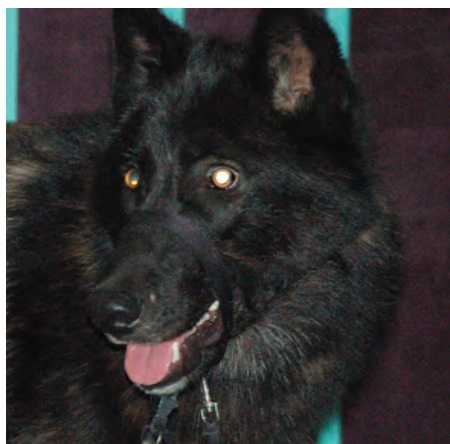
By Jen Chin, Recreation Assistant, Patuxent Research Refuge and Jeanne Latham, Vice-chair of the Friends of Patuxent. Photos: Ross Feldner

The Awesome Event

What an amazing experience – seeing a live wolf! And at our local wildlife Refuge – Patuxent Research Refuge (Patuxent).



To a sold out audience, Luther, the wolf ambassador from Ironwood Wolves in Ohio, along with his owners/handlers, Matt and Rachel, made their debut at Patuxent on Saturday, October 20, 2018.



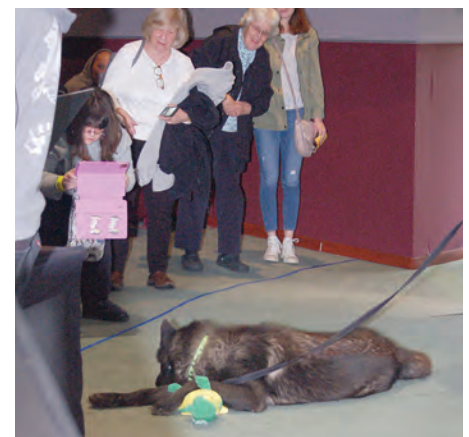
There were three programs, 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, and 3:00 PM. Each program started with an introduction from Jeanne Latham, Brad Knudsen or Jen Chin. For the 10 AM showing, Aurelia Skipwith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior,



Luther the Wolf Ambassador

addressed the audience and talked about the importance of Urban Refuges, then stayed to see the wolf program. The presentation by Ironwood Wolves discussed myths about “big, bad wolves” and why we have no reason to fear them. It also emphasized the benefit of having the apex predator in an environment, by showcasing the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park.

Following each 30-minute presentation, row-by-row, visitors walked to the



front of the auditorium to see Luther up close and take photos. They had an opportunity to ask Rachel and Matt questions and see the wolf “discovery table.” In the lobby of the visitor center there were interactive activities to learn more about apex predators and see how tall a person is if they stood next to a wolf. Other activities included “Survival of the Pack” life size

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Winter in the Hollingsworth Gallery 2019

By Faith Leahy-Thielke, Patuxent Volunteer

Happy Hollingsworth New Year! Two groups, one newly-formed and one new to us, are featured this winter: the Ephemera Nature Photographers, in February; and the Annapolis Artist Friends, in March. But our “lead-off” in January is the realistic oil painter – and homeschooling mother of 10! Blandine Broomfield of Annapolis.

Broomfield has written that she had wanted all her life to be an artist. In the last three years since five of her children are now adults, she’s honed her skills in course work at Anne Arundel Community College and branched out from portraiture into natural scenes. She has “always enjoyed the Impressionists” but is happy that in recent decades, realism has resurged as a valued art form – allowing artists like herself to flourish. Broomfield photographs scenes when she chauffeurs children or waits at their practices and often paints from these photos – but after dinner in her home studio. She has exhibited at a number of venues, including Bowie City Hall, Milkcrate Creative Space, Havre de Grace’s Artists’ Emporium, Quiet Waters Park, Sandy Spring Museum, and the Columbia Art Center and is delighted to be invited to exhibit at Hollingsworth. View some of her work on the website designed by one of her sons: Blandine-Broomfield Art.com.

In February the “Ephemera Photographers” will share their North and South tract images gathered from various educational trail activities. This group was encouraged by volunteer and former contributor, Graeme Simpson in conversation with Mary Ann Hartnett. The group is made up of Patuxent volunteers, Conservation Corps students, and Boy and Girl Scouts. They include: Ed Grimes, Elsie Holler, Thomas Kirby, W.J. Deming, Gregory Crites, Joe DiGiovanni, Matthew Beziat, Mike Goldberg, Rod Burley, Prayoon PC, Jerry Herman,

and Kaitlyn Baligush as well as Simpson. Their subjects include educational gardens, pollinators, Budburst and the flora and fauna observed on the Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunts at North Tract. These last were initiated by volunteer, Mike Goldberg, a “retired” high school biology teacher and department head. Goldberg describes these hunts as a challenge to participants who receive a list of “scavenger” items like “sculptured stones,” vertebrate evidence, mystery objects and plants and animals to seek on a 30-40 minute hunt for beginners. Cell phones or digital cameras are used to collect the images. In the last two years, Mike has been joined by Matt Beziat, a college student who has assisted in developing new programs for visitors and conducting the hunts. Longer trails have been added for the more ambitious. The “Amazing Race” Scavenger Hunt is a seven stop driving or biking loop – 4-5 miles of the 20 + available.

Graeme Simpson writes: “In the New Year the Ephemera Photographers group will meet to finalize photos and ephemera items to be exhibited.”

Ellie, Marg and Sheila are the participants this March from the Annapolis Artist Friends whose work will hang in the gallery. “Serendipity and art” not only brought them together – but introduced them to the possibility of exhibiting at Patuxent. Group members were painting lotus fields at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens when a Patuxent volunteer approached them about an exhibit of their work at the Refuge gallery. Serendipity indeed. These artists met originally when they saw each other regularly at painting classes and workshops. Almost inevitably, they recognized their connection and have worked together ever since to share memories, classes, tips, materials and books – and display work which they’ve done at the

Amalfi Art and Music Festival and the Mitchell Gallery in Annapolis.

Ellie (Ellen Brown) is originally from St. Louis where she graduated from Maryville University. She and her husband lived on a riverboat and she worked for years as a purser on her family’s excursion boat. Having moved to this area, Ellen renewed her interest in botanical art – studying at St. John’s and the U.S. Botanical Garden and other workshops. Her focus is watercolor and egg tempera on vellum and gessoed panels in addition to plein air watercolors.

Marg (Marguerite Duffy Harbachevski) was born in D.C. and spent a childhood influenced by its history and culture, but dismayed as development covered farms on her side of town with cement. She earned degrees at Goucher and American University and enjoyed a career in national environmental protection. A plein art class sparked her interest in the painted rather than the written word. Mentors and the Schuler School of Fine Art focused her in the methods of the Old Masters. She uses charcoal, oil, sculpture and watercolor to tell stories – to hope for a balance between “people and wildlife/cities and nature.”

Sheila Myers hails from Wisconsin. She earned degrees there with majors in Fine Arts and Library Science. Her working career spanned regular Army, Army Reserves and civilian government employment. Retired late in 2013 and at home now in Annapolis, she decided to return to “creative” work. Beginning with watercolor classes and inspired by floral oils, she, too, enrolled in Baltimore’s Schuler school. Her current focus is landscapes and seascapes in oil and reflects her love of the natural – of trees, water and wildlife.

Truly, these amazing people will make the Hollingsworth Gallery a “winter wonderland.” 🐢

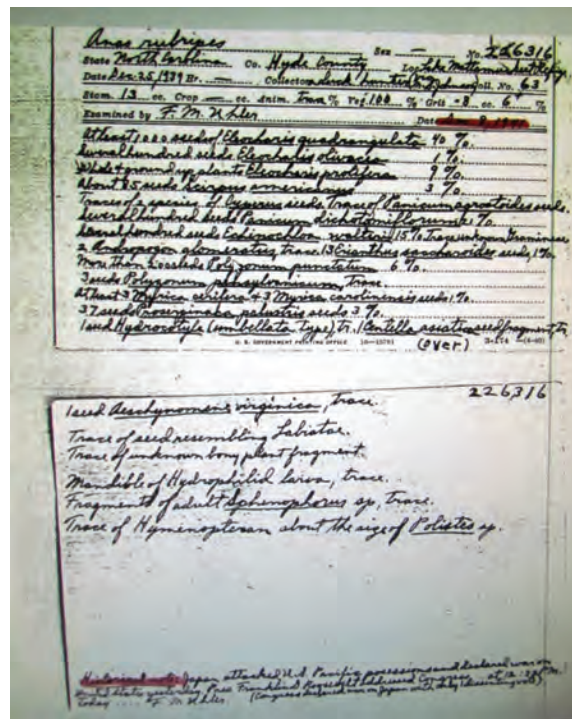
Patuxent Research Refuge During World War II

By Matthew C. Perry

December 7th is the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. In 1958-59, a cousin of mine lived in Hawaii as a young boy near Pearl Harbor where his Navy officer father was stationed. Back then he could still see many signs of damage left from the attack. The USS Arizona site had just a simple platform with a single flagpole where the American flag was raised and lowered every day. He could see the platform from his bedroom and used to watch ships come and leave Pearl Harbor and see the raising/lowering of the flag. His father told him that the Japanese did what the U.S. Navy had just practiced to defend weeks before -- a mock attack on Pearl Harbor. Radar unfortunately had not been developed yet. I visited the USS Arizona Memorial in 1965 when I was in the Navy, and at that time there was an improved viewing platform over the partially sunken ship. I could still see oil on the surface of the water that was seeping out of the underwater fuel compartments.

The occurrence on that infamous date in history caused a major change on Patuxent Research Refuge, which I learned shortly after starting work there in 1971. On the day after the attack, December 8, 1941, the President of the United States addressed Congress and at 12:30 PM Congress declared war on Japan, with one dissenting vote. At that moment, Patuxent biologist Fran Uhler was analyzing the

food contents of a black duck collected from a hunter in North Carolina. He wrote the "historical note" of the bombing and the declaration of war on the back of an official card #226,316, on which he was recording the food data.



Many men (including biologist Bill Stickel) were subsequently drafted for military service. Many of the females (mainly in support roles) were released from employment. Lucille Stickel, a junior biologist, left Patuxent to pursue a PhD degree at the University of Michigan. Older biologists like Dr. Uhler were involved with wildlife projects to support the war effort, including studying the furs of mammals for their insulative properties to

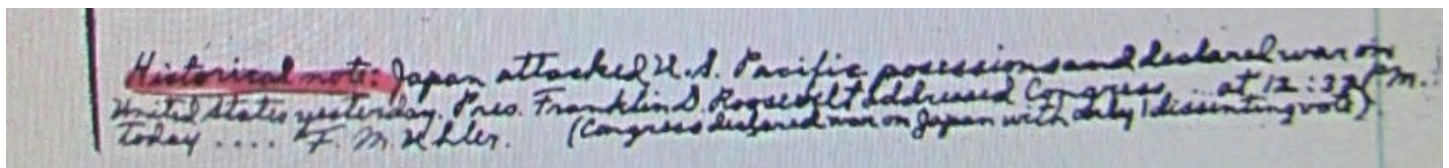
be used for clothes of servicemen in northern areas like Alaska.

Patuxent became a camp for the Public Service Program (PSP; conscientious objectors) and the men had lodging in the newly constructed Merriam Laboratory. Ms. Kitty Botts, a Patuxent secretary in 1941, told me that she lost her job because the PSP wanted to hire their own staff of new secretaries. Several of the men became employees of Patuxent when the program ended, including Chandler Robbins. Conscientious objectors were involved with conservation projects at Patuxent and built Snowden Pond for wildlife and a firefighting water supply. However, they refused to work on the construction of the Beltsville Airport bordering Patuxent as they believed it was being built for military reasons. They were correct as the airport was built for U.S. military planes to prevent attacks on the nation's capital. There still are railroad tracks in the woods for the hidden anti-aircraft guns that could be

brought onto the field in case of a surprise enemy attack on the U.S. planes parked there.

Over the 80 years that Patuxent has existed, there have been major events in the world that influenced the staff and the mission of Patuxent. Some employees have served in the military, while others have served on conservation projects dealing with natural

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Bioacoustic Monitoring of Wildlife

By J. Andrew Royle, Ph. D.

Bioacoustic monitoring technology has been rapidly adopted for the study of many taxa including bats, birds, frogs, primates and whales. To interpret data from bioacoustic monitoring, it is crucial to understand the dynamics of how species are detected by acoustic sensors (ARDs; or acoustic recording devices). Detection is mostly influenced by sound attenuation in the environment. The strength of the signal decays, or attenuates, with increasing distance between source and receiver. Some



Houston Toads

in detectability between open and closed canopy habitats. We observed large differences in predicted detection probability among species in each habitat type, as well as along 1000 meter transects. Increases in temperature, barometric pressure, and wind speed significantly affected detection probability. However, aside from differences among species, habitat, and distance, topography impeding a line of sight between sound source and receiver had the greatest negative influence on detection. Our



habitat types may increase attenuation beyond the effects of distance alone. These combined effects are rarely accounted for in acoustic monitoring programs. We evaluated the performance of ARDs using the calls of six anuran and six bird species.

We broadcast and recorded vocalizations in five habitat types along 1000 meter transects. We used generalized linear models to test for effects of habitat, distance, species, environmental, and landscape variables. For all species, we found differences

results suggest researchers should model the effects of habitat, distance, and frequency on detection probability when performing acoustic surveys. To optimize survey design we recommend pilot measurements among varying habitats. 🐸

Calling for Your Articles and Photos

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!**

Wild and Not-So-Wild Finds at the Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar 2018

By Jeanne Latham and Mary Ann Hartnett, Wildlife Bazaar Committee Members and Brenda Stone, Chair of the Wildlife Holiday Bazaar. Photos by Nell Baldacchino.

Oh what fun it was to shop the Friends Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 3rd!

Greeting more than 500 visitors this year were 31 vendors, who sold everything from bird seed to beeswax wraps, copper ornaments, jewelry, children's books, scroll saw artwork, wildlife art and photography, pottery, quilts and much more! The vendors gave 15 percent of their sales for that day to the Friends, so visitor purchases from the vendors helped support the Friends and the Refuge.

Then there was the Friends' Baldy's Bargains, which provided both new and gently used items. Shopping for a treasure was made more enjoyable with holiday music playing in the back-



Barbara Dahlberg, Vendor & Friends member



Russ Lehman, Vendor & Friends member

ground. Wildlife Images Bookstore was open for business and supervised by our creative and efficient bookstore manager, Linda Shive. We had door prize drawings nearly every 30 minutes, which visitors seemed to really like. Children, young and old took conservation tram rides, saw a live American kestrel and Screech owl, and had the opportunity to "dance with the Whooping cranes" at the Whooping crane mimic exhibit. Many children

chose to make a fun craft. Also, visitors could take home a house plant, and at the same time make a donation for the plant to support the Friends.

Exhibited in the Hollingsworth Gallery, were Graeme Simpson's amazing framed photos. For those who do not know, Graeme is a Friends member and an amazing professional photographer. All of the photos in this exhibit were taken at Patuxent Research Refuge, and captured critters such as the red fox, beaver, Great blue heron, Monarch butterfly, Ruby-throated hummingbird, wild turkey, chipmunk, Osprey, Wood duck, Orchard oriole; plus beautiful scenes and native plants. Graeme was present to talk with visitors and answer their questions. He plans to donate these framed photos to the Friends. Thank you Graeme!

This year's Bazaar was the Friends 8th one! And it was a great success,



Baldy's Bargains

thanks in large part to Brenda Stone's excellent leadership as Chair of the Bazaar Committee, Mary Ann Hartnett's coordination of the 31 vendors, Gail's skills at operating the Crane Café and Bake Sale, and Jeanne's supervision of the volunteers. We also recognize the hard work of the committee members and volunteers who staffed the set-up days and day of the event, as well as the support of the Refuge and Research Center staffs. Volun-



Having Fun Making a Craft Item



Mimicking a Whooping Crane



Find What You're Looking For?

teers, Friends members and Friends Board members who helped include: Mary Allen, Nell Baldacchino, Matt Beziat, Ken Cohen, Ann Coren, Marie Delaney, Janice Devine, Ann Dixon, Jeannine Dorothy, Lucy Grimes, Den-



Bake Sale & Crane Café



Jenn Hill Showing a Female American Kestrel

nis Hartnett, Barrie Hershkowitz, Will Hershkowitz, Ann Hodgdon, Bobbie Jones, Tom Kirby, Ken Lavish, Kathy Lynn, Rebecca McPherson, Gail Melson, Nancy Morrissey, Andrew Najera, Sue Priftis, Gwen Robinette, Fran Steiner, Jennifer Toth, Katie Toth, Tim Toth, and Ziaul Zannet. We also had the assistance and encouragement of many Refuge staff: Brad Knudsen, Diana Ogilvie, Jennie McNicoll, Jen Chin, Tim Parker, Jenn Hill, Mike Mc-

Connell, Jeff Bolden, and Kaitlyn Baligush. (Our apologies if we left out anyone's name.)

The Friends realized over \$3,700 from overall sales and vendors, a significant increase over last year. The Friends Wildlife Images bookstore did a very good business as well. Thanks to everyone who made this year's Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar an enjoyable and successful event. 🐢

More Bees, Please!

By Lowell Adams, Secretary, Friends of Patuxent

The National Wildlife Visitor Center buzzed with excitement the evening of October 30, 2018. More than 40 members of Friends of Patuxent (FOP) were there to enjoy a light supper, to review accomplishments of FOP the past year, and to learn something about native bees of Maryland and the United States.

FOP Chair Rich Dolesh began the evening's program by distributing the 2017-2018 Annual Report of FOP. He noted that *Wildlife Images*, FOP's nature and bookstore housed within the National Wildlife Visitor Center, continued to provide attractive merchandise and excellent service to visitors, staff, and volunteers. Dolesh thanked bookstore manager Linda Shive and her volunteers for their good work. Dolesh also thanked Brenda Stone and other volunteers for operating the Friends Crane Café at many Friends events during the year. The Friends' third annual Night on the Wild Side (NOWS) was a huge success. Thanks to the NOWS Committee, chaired by Board Director Charlie Deegan, and other volunteers for making it so. Friends held its fourth annual Pollinator Festival in 2018 (first conducted as the Monarch Festival in 2015). The event, chaired by Friends of Patuxent Board Secretary Sparky Sparks and including other Board members and volunteers, is designed as a conservation education event to highlight the importance of pollinators to the environment and human society. Dale Mangum of Bell Nursery and former board member of Friends donated hundreds of milkweed plants that attendees took home to plant in their own yards and gardens to support monarch butterflies.

After highlighting some of the accomplishments of FOP for the year, Dolesh asked for brief introductions of attendees. He recognized a number of individuals who had volunteered nu-



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

More than 40 members of Friends of Patuxent attended the annual meeting, enjoyed a light supper, interaction with one another, and learning something about native bees.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Sam Droege, wildlife biologist with Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, discussed native bees, their role in ecosystems, value to humans, and practical ways homeowners could make their yards and other open spaces better bee habitat.

merous hours to the Refuge and Research Center.

Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager, and John French, Research Center Director, gave brief welcoming remarks and highlighted work of the Refuge and Research Center. They thanked FOP and its volunteers for their assistance during the year.



Photo: Sam Droege, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Public domain.

Sunflower Bee (*Svastra obliqua*), a species of long-horned bee, from Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge on the eastern shore of Maryland in Kent County. A species of late-summer composites, it is particularly fond of the sunflower and daisy groups.

The Chair next introduced the speaker for the evening, Sam Droege, a Patuxent Wildlife Research Center wildlife biologist and bee expert. Sam's topic was "Native Bee Conservation: We have Responsibility." Sam's knowledge and practical experience came through in an excellent presentation on conservation of native bees. Droege noted that Maryland has

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More Bees, Please!

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more than 400 different species of native bees. Most are solitary ground nesters and either cannot sting or do not defend their nests. No one is allergic to native bees. Native bees are tiny, and one bush or one clump of perennials is often all it takes to foster some of these bees in your yard. Within a mile of your yard (urban or rural) there are likely over 100 species of bees looking for the right plants.

Loss of native woodland, field, and meadow habitats to agriculture and development has been detrimental to native bee populations because their pollen flowers are gone. You can reverse some of the losses by planting and managing native plants in your yard and property. Attracting and tend-



A small carpenter bee (*Ceratina dupla*). This bee, due to its size, is not likely to cause damage to structures or buildings; it prefers to nest in plant stems or rotting wood, such as a log on the ground.

Photo: Sam Droege, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Public domain.

ing native bees on your property is all about planting the right flowers and flowering bushes. Native bees prefer native plants and many native bees are picky about what flowers they gather pollen from. Some only go to one type of plant to get their pollen (mak-

ing them “specialist” bees). Specialist bees are vulnerable bees. If the plant they depend on is not present, the bee is not present. The more types of native flowering plants you plant, the more types of native bees you will be supporting. Some native plants that support specialist native bees include blueberry, deerberry, shrubby dogwoods, winterberry and other native shrub hollies, willow, coneflower, black-eyed Susan, annual and perennial sunflower, goldenrod, asters, evening primrose, and hibiscus, among others. Native bees are good pollinators, thus have broad practical value to humans. For more information on native bees and their value, please see Sam’s Bee Lab website (<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/pwrc/science/native-bee-inventory-and-monitoring-lab>). 🐝

Lord of the Woods

By Frank McGilvrey, Volunteer/Biologist

In the spring of 1952, I was a junior at the University of Illinois. The Zoology Dept. offered an ecology field trip to Reelfoot Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Tennessee during spring break. This is where I became acquainted with the pileated woodpecker. During the spring its hammering and raucous call reverberated through the lowland forests of west Tennessee. The locals would say, “listen, it’s the lord, god of the woods”.

Unlike its look-alike, the ivory-billed woodpecker, the pileated managed to hang on while the bottomland forests were being destroyed. The recovery of these forests led to the recovery of the pileated over much of its range from southern Canada to Florida and west to the Mississippi River valley. Its recovery also benefited a number of cavity-nesting species that require cavities of such capacity that only the



pileated woodpecker could provide. This includes the wood duck, hooded merganser, screech owl, and tree squirrels.

In Maryland, the recovery is documented in the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and DC, edited by Chan Robins. The range as expanded considerably since 1958, with the largest number of breeding pairs in the Patuxent River flood plain at the junction of Anne Arundel and Prince Georges Counties (i.e. Patuxent Refuge). The pileated has been included in our waterbird surveys since 1996. Although there has been considerable fluctuations, the overall trend has been upward.

So, if you are walking through our bottomland forests in the spring time, listen for the Lord of the Woods. Long may he reign. 🐿

Annual Pollinator Festival an Inspiring Success

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media mentions and word-of-mouth by past attendees. Some attendees came from as far away as Delaware and New Jersey, making the festival as the highlight of their day trip to the refuge. Families were particularly well represented, and children thoroughly enjoyed activities such as the Milkweed Migration game and “fluffing” milkweed seeds, collected by volunteer Joe DiGiovani, from large paper bags as they ran about amid the floating seed, laughing with delight.



Children and adults alike were fascinated by displays and monarch tagging demonstrations. Sparky Sparks placed a tiny adhesive information-laden dot on the wings of each wild monarch butterfly and recorded data on those monarchs that were captured that morning in the nearby wildflowers and fields of the wildlife viewing area by Jean Sparks. Since the festival coincides with the peak of monarch migration through the mid-Atlantic, it was a happy coincidence that monarchs were widely present on the beautiful early fall day. The tagging and release of the monarchs literally drew appreciative “Awwws” from the many children and adults who watched the newly tagged butterflies take flight and resume their migration thousands of miles to southern Mexico.



The Ippolito family exploring the wonders of pollinators

New for 2018 was a highly popular display on honeybees by the Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association (BUMBA), and returning displays and information stations including one on called *How Pollinators See Color*. A highlight of the festival was the giveaway of nearly 200 quart-size milkweed plants donated by Bell Nursery, a large wholesale nursery. The donation was made possible through the efforts of Dale Mangum, former FOP board member, and a portion of the milkweed plants will be planted around the North Tract visitor center and in the wildlife viewing area.

Friends of Patuxent volunteers and FOP board members helped to set up for the event, staff the information stations, and lead the activities, hikes, and children’s games. Sparky Sparks led a nature hike for 35 people from Cape Cove who were visiting the refuge for the first time.

Volunteers helping to put on the festival included FOP Board members, C. “Sparky” Sparks, Rich Dolesh, Jeanne Latham and Lowell Adams; and Patuxent Volunteers Joe Giovanni, Jean Sparks, Debbie Phillips, Steph-
Continued on next page

Annual Pollinator Festival an Inspiring Success

Continued from previous page

anie Everett, Matt Beziat, Marie Delaney, Mackenzie Beatrice. Special thanks go to USFWS staff Jefferies Bolden and Diana Ogilvie.

The Friends of Patuxent Pollinator Festival is a time for celebration and education which it truly was. However, there is a deeper conservation message of this public education event that is made all the more urgent by the threats and loss of habitat facing our nation's pollinating species. The Friends of Patuxent stand firmly behind the work of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the USFWS Patuxent Research Refuge in their efforts to protect all pollinators. 🐛



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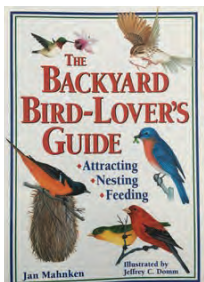
For the Birds

By Evelyn Kirby, Patuxent Volunteer

As you fight off the winter chill wrapped in a warm blanket in front of the fire, consider the birds. It's tough out there trying to find food, but you can help. Here are some places to get ideas for attracting and feeding the birds:

Visit our clearance table!

Your purchases from the Wildlife Images Bookstore help support the work of the refuge.



The Backyard Bird-Lovers Guide

This guide is bursting with information on how to attract and understand backyard birds. Discover what different birds eat, how to build birdhouses, how to outsmart squirrels (hopefully) and other pests, and much more.



Feed the Birds

Show your neighbors and passers-by that you care for the birds during the cold and snow of winter. Who knows, your sign might encourage others to "feed the birds."



North America Bird Feeder Guide

This book is, "the complete illustrated guide to attracting and observing garden birds."



Bird Sticker Book and Learning About Birds

Young children can learn about caring for the birds with these small sticker books that show the birds at the feeder.

2018 Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner

By Diana Ogilvie, Visitor Services Park Ranger, Volunteer Coordinator. Photos: Ross Feldner

The Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Potluck Supper on Sunday, November 18, attracted the largest crowd in over 10 years. More than 100 volunteers, friends, Friends and special guests attended. In case you missed it, here is a replay in pictures.



As guests arrived, Nancy Newman Pape provided incidental music while people dropped off their potluck offering, located friends and chose dinner seats.



After dinner and dessert, Friends of Patuxent Board Vice Chair, Jeanne Latham, introduced herself and the Friends of Patuxent and thanked volunteers for their service to the refuge.



Brad Knudsen, Patuxent Research Refuge Manager, recalled his top ten notes to himself about past volunteer dinners.



Volunteers had plenty of delicious food to choose from on the bountiful buffet line.



Brad introduced special guest, Mark Salvo, who gave a presentation on the work of the Defenders of Wildlife, a major national conservation organization focused solely on wildlife and habitat conservation and the safeguarding of biodiversity.

Next up - Award presentations!



New volunteers Ann Sunny, Shanah Cumberbatch, Rachel Johnsen, Nishanth Sunny and Will Hershkowitz received their 25 hour award.



Sue Priftis and Marnie Whitlock – 300 hours



Debbie Phillips, Tom Mikell, John Trageser, Ellen Bretz – 1,000 hours



Don Luery, Ziaul Ahmed, and Intyre McKee received their 50-hour award.



Cathy Kuehne and Nancy Newman Pape - 400 hours



Matt Beziat - 1,000 hours



Bobby Jones, Wendy Whittemore, Steve Mirsky, Barrie Hershkowitz, Tim Reichard, Nancy Morrissey, and Joyce Wineland - 100 hours



Ross Feldner and Marie Delaney - 500 hours



Frances Kent – 2,080 hours



Dave Barry - 250 hours



Matt Beziat and Jeannette Grotke– 750 hours



Charlotte Melichar – 3,500 hours

2018 Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner

Continued from page 15



Gwen Robinette, 4,500 hours



Sparky Sparks – 8,000 hours



Mike Goldberg – 4,500 hours



Three volunteers reached the next 1,000 hour level and were appropriately goosed. Dennis Hartnett – 13,000 hours; Ed Grimes – 14,000 hours; Frank McGilvrey – 26,000 hours



Jeanne Latham – 6,000 hours



Dennis and Mary Ann Hartnett joined the list of volunteers who have been at Patuxent for over 20 years.



Bill Harms – 7,000 hours

Three volunteers were recognized for contributing more than 1,000 hours in one year. Claudia Papillo, Joe DiGiovanni, Frank McGilvrey

Special Awards



Bill Harms received a special award for his outstanding leadership on the Patuxent Research Refuge Plant Inventory and Herbarium.



Frank McGilvrey received a Lifetime Achievement award for his dedication to the Refuge mission over the past 22 years.



Ted Weidenhoft received a Governor's Award for volunteering at the Refuge more than 10,000 hours. Earlier recipients of the award were Rod Burley, Frank McGilvrey, and Claudia Papillo, who received their certificates from Governor Hogan at the Maryland State House in Annapolis.

Ed Grimes, Lucy Grimes and Dennis Hartnett received their certificates in a small ceremony at the Visitor Center. Steve Noyes is the other recipient of the award.

Last But Not Least

The 2018 Volunteer of the Year was announced. Volunteers who have worked 100 hours or more during the year can be nominated by other volunteers, Friends, and staff. A panel of volunteers votes for the selectee based in part on raising awareness of the mission, diversity of volunteer contributions, hours, and quality of narratives. This year we received 5 nominations for 5 volunteers - Matt Beziat, Joe Di-Giovanni, Bill Harms, Claudia Papillo, and Penny Wolkow.



Claudia Papillo - Volunteer of the Year

Claudia Papillo was selected by a panel of volunteers as the 2018 Volunteer of the Year for her work as the Visitor Center weekend front desk anchor. She tirelessly works double shifts on both Saturdays and Sundays to greet visitors, provide information about the National Wildlife Refuge System and the North tract and South tract of Patuxent Research Refuge. She has helped with school and camp groups, community outreach and special events. She mentors and trains new front desk volunteers, helps with various administrative tasks and helps prepare for special events whenever needed.

We ended the evening with a sing along of special lyrics written to a John Denver tune by Nancy Newman Pape.

Afterward, the Dickey Chicks (Gwyneth Dickey Zakaib, Rachael Dickey Gilde and Thomas Dickey, 3 of the 4 chicks of Diana Ogilvie (Dickey)) sang of the successes of the Whooping Crane Population Recovery Program at Patuxent as Patuxent's participation in the project ends this year.

Many thanks to the more than 180 volunteers who contributed over 28,000 hours this year to help us maintain the



Dickey Chicks

refuge. Congratulations to the volunteers who reached their latest milestones and thanks to the superb cooks who brought their top dishes to share at the potluck.

Finally, thanks to the Volunteer Dinner Angels, Nell Baldacchino, Lucy Grimes, Ann Hodgdon, Nancy Newman Pape, Claudia Papillo, Gwen Robinette, Jen Chin, Tim Parker and photographer Ross Feldner who helped make the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner so memorable, from set up, check in, dinner, awards and entertainment, to clean up. It was truly a special evening. 🐢

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN!

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

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



A Real Live Wolf at Patuxent Research Refuge!

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board game, Wolf trivia, and special wolf talks from staff and volunteers at the wolf pod. In total we had over 700 visitors, and that was only limited because of the seating capacity in the auditorium. We are already discussing maybe having either a wolf or a different wild animal next year!

As a matter of background, when the National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent first opened in 1994, the Refuge had a number of wolves on display and Jim Fowler, a zoologist, writer, and host of the Emmy Award-winning television show *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom*, was present. That event drew hundreds of people; and cars were parked all the way down the entrance and exit roads, and even spilled out onto Powder Mill Road. Some folks walked two miles to see these wolves. Jen Chin heard this piece of Patuxent's history and thought we should bring a wolf back again. So the idea of having another wolf event was born, and Jen was instrumental in developing the event and partnering with the Friends of Patuxent to host it.

How the Wolf Program Came to Be

You may be interested to know that a lot of work went into planning and preparation for this event. Several months ago, Jen Chin introduced the idea to the Friends of Patuxent (Friends) that we could co-sponsor a new program, "Live Wolf at Patuxent." After finding Ironwood Wolves as the organization, which could provide a wolf ambassador, she met with the Friends Board at a regular Board meeting, to discuss the program purpose and details, as well as costs and partnering. A planning team was organized and we felt confident that bringing a live wolf to Patuxent would draw many people from the community who otherwise might not visit the refuge. And this did happen – when each of the three audi-



ences of 200 plus people were asked, about 50 percent of the people who attended raised their hands, indicating that they had not been to Patuxent before. And how many times have you heard "I have lived here for so many years and didn't know this refuge was here.?"

Regarding responses to the Live Wolf at Patuxent program, the Friends and the Refuge received enthusiastic verbal feedback from visitors immediately after the programs, as well as emails and positive comments days and weeks following the event. And Rachel and Matt, the owners of Ironwood Wolves, indicated that they would readily come back to Patuxent, if invited again.

Jen Chin really wants to thank the refuge staff, volunteers and especially, Friends of Patuxent for their support in co-sponsoring this event with the refuge. Without the dedication and enthusiasm from our refuge family, we would not be able to fulfill our mission to reach the community to the extent we did. 🐾

Patuxent Research Refuge During World War II

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resources. In all cases, however, the country has benefited. Employees can be proud of those that went before them to make the world a safer place

and the planet a more sustainable living environment.

Patuxent biologist, Francis Uhler, in 1944 with drying skins of muskrats and raccoons, which were part of study on the insulative properties of animal furs to support War effort. 🐾



Patuxent biologist, Francis Uhler, in 1944 with drying skins of muskrats and raccoons, which were part of study on the insulative properties of animal furs to support War effort.

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

- Richard Dolesh, *Chair*
- Jeanne Latham, *Vice-chair*
- Lowell Adams, *Secretary*
- Robert Schroeder, *Treasurer*
- Ken Cohen, *Director*
- Charles Deegan, *Director*
- Kenneth Lavish, *Director*
- Matthew Perry, *Director*
- Clarence "Sparky" Sparks, *Director*

LIAISONS

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

FRIEND OF PATUXENT BOARD MEETINGS

Friends Board meetings will be held at 5 PM at the Visitor Center on Jan. 15, 2019; Feb. 19, 2019; Mar. 19, 2019; Apr. 16, 2019; May 21, 2019; Jun. 18, 2019; Jul. 16, 2019; Aug. – no meeting; Sep. 17, 2019. 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

Corporate \$1,000 Gift: 1/4 page ad in the Friends newsletter for one year. (4 Issues).

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

Check here if you prefer not to have a gift, and instead have your entire dues support Friends of Patuxent.

Check here if you would like save a tree by reading our quarterly newsletter online.





Friends of Patuxent

National Wildlife Visitor Center
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel MD, 20708-4011

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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:

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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

(Application on reverse side)