

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 2020

## Final Thoughts

By Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager

**S**unrise - over Lake Redington December 3, 2019 - on my last day with the FWS! After 39 years (4 months with Animal Damage Control at an old Area Office, 5 years in HQ, and 34 years with 6 different refuges during that time - in Regions 3, 5, and 6 — don't ask me the equivalent Regions in JAO-speak!), it is time to head out the door. It has been a distinct privilege working with so many of you and so many of our partners through the years, delivering critical conservation work for this country, conservation work that will last for generations to come!

With retirement comes excitement and uncertainty - but - with the certainty that there are many more sunrises to come!



*We will miss you Brad!*



Except for tomorrow December 4, 2019 - no sunrise tomorrow - I am pretty certain I am going to sleep in!

See you somewhere in Nature, my fellow Conservationists!!

*"Adopt the pace of Nature; her secret is patience."* - Ralph Waldo Emerson

## 2019 Duck Stamp Competition

By Kenneth Cohen, Volunteer

**T**he United States government sponsors only one art contest each year, the Duck Stamp Competition. This year the Department of Interior held that competition at the Patuxent Research Refuge's visitor center on September 27th and 28th. The winning entry will become the im-



**Black-bellied Whistling ducks by Eddie Leroy**

age on the 2020 - 2021 Federal Duck Stamp. This year 193 artists submitted entries. After three artists withdrew their entries, the judges had 190 remaining

*Continued on page 6*

## Inside...

- Fun Projects and Puzzles and Games, Oh My! ...2
- Forest Inventory at Patuxent Research Refuge..... 4
- Cash Lake Goose Narrowly Avoids a Bad Entanglement.....5
- Dashing Through the Snow at the 2019 Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar..... 8
- A "Curiosity Playground" at Patuxent..... 10

- Hollingsworth Gallery - Winter 2020..... 11
- Chan's Wisdom ..... 12
- 2019 Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner ..... 14
- Around the Refuge ..... 18
- Matt Perry Receives Award ..... 20
- Patuxent Resident Trumpeter Swans ..... 21

# Fun Projects and Puzzles and Games, Oh My!

By Karen E.H. Atwood, Volunteer

Looking for something indoors to do on these cold days and nights? Winter is indeed here, but do not fear — come check out the new offerings, as well as the books and merchandise in the Sale Area at Patuxent’s *Wildlife Images* shop!

After all, Winter presents the perfect opportunity for enjoying creativity through puppet shows and cozying up for puzzles and games – we offer high quality puppets and entertainment that can also be educational. Winter’s also great for individual or family projects, like using a kit to build nest boxes for the beautiful Eastern Bluebird. Bluebirds are one of our native North American “cavity-nesting” species that have suffered population declines due to competition for, and lack of, natural cavities (holes in trees; dead, standing stumps and snags). It turns out that they and others like them, e.g., chickadees, will accept our nest boxes to raise their families in, and sometimes



Photo: Ingrid H. Tepelmann



Photo: Karen E.H. Atwood

**Bluebird nest box kit (left), and nest box completed from the kit (right). Receive a free “Friends of Patuxent” tote bag with purchase of a kit, while supplies last.**

also use them to roost in for shelter on cold nights. Eastern Bluebirds nest early; they’ll start checking out potential nesting sites in March. Why not build a box now? (*Who knows, you might get “roost-ers,” too!*)

Patuxent Volunteer Will Hershkowitz has cut out and assembled easy-to-build, songbird nest box kits for us to sell, with clear assembly instructions and labeled parts in each kit. The

nest-box entry holes are designed with the Eastern Bluebird’s specific needs in mind – i.e., if your nest-box entry is too large, other cavity-nesters like the non-native European Starling can usurp it. **Buyers will receive a free, dark green “Friends of Patuxent” tote bag with each nest-box kit purchase, while supplies last.**

The *Wildlife Images* shop is not just about unique giftware, *not* just about

**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**  
**ATTN: Ross Feldner**  
 11811 Ivanhoe Street  
 Wheaton, MD 20902

Or email to [ross.feldner@verizon.net](mailto:ross.feldner@verizon.net)

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

Article submission deadlines:

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

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



Photo: Karen E.H. Atwood

**Learn while you “hibernate”! Curl up with a new book or educational fold-out.**



Photo: Karen E.H. Atwood



Photo: Karen E.H. Atwood

**New children's books and puzzles, for the Winter season.**

great sources for cold-weather “down-time-learning” about fishing, birding, hiking, topics from insects to trees, local “nature places,” natural history and intriguing people within the field — and *not* just about the educational

puppets, puzzles and games. Your purchases here help support the educational and public program missions of the Patuxent Research Refuge and the Wildlife Research Center! Come on over and embrace Winter, on the

Refuge and in the shop with us. We're inside the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, not far from Bowie State University in Bowie, MD. Both the Visitor Center and shop are open Fridays through Wednesdays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed Thursdays and federal holidays). 🐾

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

**“Friends” receive a 10% discount**

## Education Pavilion at Patuxent to Be Named after Chan Robbins

By Marcia Watson, Member of the Friends of Patuxent Board of Directors

**A**n existing environmental education pavilion on the South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge will be named “The Chandler S. Robbins Outdoor Education Center” to memorialize Chan’s lifelong commitment to conservation and environmental education. The pavilion will be enhanced with signage and displays honoring Chan’s lifework.

As many are aware, Chan, who passed away in 2017, was a world-famous ornithologist who was employed for most of his life at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He was the lead author of the venerable *Birds of North America - A Guide to Field Identification* (aka *The Golden Guide*), as well as numerous scientific publications. He developed the protocols for the Breeding Bird Survey and the Breeding Bird Atlas, and was known for his landmark studies on the effects of forest fragmentation and pesticides and for his work on bird migration using bird banding. Chan’s entire life and work are thoroughly documented in a memorial website maintained by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/robbins/index.cfm>.



The pavilion being named after Chan is an open-air structure located in a wooded area just northwest of the National Wildlife Visitor Center on South Tract (see photo). The pavilion is used for children’s education programs, but is in an area of the Refuge that is currently off-limits to the public. That will change once the trail leading to the pavilion is enhanced, and the new signage and interpretive displays are in place.

The Friends of Patuxent, Refuge staff, and the Robbins family are work-

ing together to develop plans for the signs and displays. The project is being funded through the Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment Fund established by the Friends of Patuxent. The Friends of Patuxent invites contributions to the fund. If you wish to contribute, please send a check to: Friends of Patuxent, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708, and indicate that your donation is for the Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment Fund. 🐾

# Forest Inventory at Patuxent Research Refuge

By Sandy Spencer, Patuxent Refuge Biologist

“**W**ow, this is amazing.” “Oh my god, I had no idea all this was here.” “A *real* forest!” “Look at the size of these trees!!” These are just few of the things people say when accompanying me into deep woods, far off the beaten paths of roads and trails. At nearly 13,000 acres, there are still extensive areas far enough away from disturbance and access (barring plane crashes, of course) for the plants, trees, soils, and fauna to go about the business of growing, flowering, pollinating, regenerating, sequestering, or succession, uninterrupted as nature intended.

Prior investigations by scientists, staff, researchers, or volunteers have contributed valuable qualitative glimpses into what Patuxent’s forests looked like. Examples include Hotchkiss and Stewart’s 1979 “Vegetation and Vertebrates of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center”, Ballard’s 1980 “The Patuxent Project”, Perry’s 2009 “The Big Trees of Patuxent”, Copiz’ 2011 “Investigation of Upland Wetlands and Potential Old Growth Forests of PRR North and Central Tracts”, Harms’ native plant inventory (2010-present), Woolpert and Nature Serve 2012 Vegetation Classification of Patuxent, or the 2008 and 2015 forest bird surveys. Efforts prior to 1991 would not have included all of what is Patuxent now.

So how is the forest actually doing *today*? Of what species is it composed refuge-wide? How well is it serving the wildlife for which the refuge was established? What is in the understory vegetation? Are there any rare, threatened, or endangered plants? How old is the forest and what will it look like in the future?

Until recently, the Fish and Wildlife Service had no formal, multi-refuge forest inventory protocol for answer-



ing these questions in a standardized, repeatable way that would inform wildlife management. In 2015-2016, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) collaborated to create such a protocol for refuges, and Patuxent was one of the first refuges to pilot the new forest inventory protocol in 2017.

This was an intensive survey conducted at 316 points across the entire refuge where bird surveys had also been conducted 1996, 2008, and 2015 (see map). At each plot, data was collected on tree species, diameter at breast height, crown condition and position, cavities, branching characteristics, wildlife or disease damage, percent coverage and height of grasses, forbs, shrubs, seedlings/saplings, and trees, dominant species in each cover type, age (core sampling) and height of a representative site tree for the plot, regen-

*Continued on page 22*

# Cash Lake Goose Narrowly Avoids A Bad Entanglement

By Aubryn Walters, Patuxent Intern

**W**hen you go fishing, goose is rarely expected to be the catch of the day. However, one unlucky bird found itself caught in a bind, as a discarded hook and line caught the leg of the waterfowl.

Fisherman Bryce Thomas had just arrived at Cash Lake when he saw the distressed bird and contacted the Visitor Center. Ranger Diana Ogilvie and Intern Aubryn Walters were dispatched to assess the situation. "I was very grateful to the fisherman who called in the goose that was trapped in the monofilament. If he hadn't, we never would have known about it and it would have died," said Ogilvie.

Armed in rubber boots and scissors, they waded into the water. The goose frantically pulled away from the duo, but the line held fast. They were able to catch the goose by pulling it in via the line, giving Ogilvie the chance to catch hold of the bird.

"This is a good example of why it is so important to dispose of monofilament line responsibly, because it really can have a harmful effect on all wildlife," said Ogilvie. Although there are special disposal bins for fishing line on the Cash Lake Pier, line is frequently discarded improperly.

Aquatic plants can sometimes catch fishing line and cause it to break, polluting the lake

Lure savers are an additional method available to anglers to avoid losing their line. It attaches to your line and knocks a trapped lure loose, enabling retrieval from heavy grasses and logs that can catch line. "I would recommend it to anyone who does any kind of bass fishing to help them get the line back, and it keeps the environment and wild-



Photo: Ross Feldner

life safe. It'll help you save money as well, because you won't be losing any of those lures," said Thomas.

He added "the lure that they were using was not the type of lure that you would fish through grass with. There are techniques that you can use to catch fish where there's heavily grass populated areas. That was not a lure that was going to catch very many fish".

Here are some suggestions to keep wildlife and the environment safe:

• Use techniques that are for a heavy grass type of fishing.

• Know how long line can stay in the water and its impact on the environment and wildlife as well. A lot of novice anglers just go out and start throwing line with a hook on the end of it. There are ways of retaining your line and protecting the environment.

• There are lure savers, which instead of breaking your line off and leaving it dangling in the water, that can help you retrieve your lure. They are made up of a strong pound that you run down the line until it gets tangled

in the hook and you can pull the lure back.

• Anyone who goes bass fishing would benefit from lure savers since they help get the line back, and it keeps the environment and wildlife safe. It'll help you save money as well, because you won't be losing any of those lures.

• If you fish at Cash Lake please be more careful with your fishing line and lures. 🐟

## Calling for Your Articles and Photos

**W**e'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' event along with a caption.

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](mailto:ross.feldner@verizon.net) **Thank you so much!**

## 2019 Duck Stamp Competition

*Continued from page 1*

in the competition. The prestige of winning this competition immediately enhances the reputation of the winning artist and consequently the value of that artist's work. This year Scot Storm, the artist whose work appears on the 2019 - 2020 stamp, attended both days of the competition, signed the Duck Stamp containing his painting both days, and gave a presentation.

The contest has strict rules. Each year the Department of Interior limits the subject to 5 species of waterfowl. This year the contestants chose from Black Duck, Bufflehead, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Shoveler, and Emperor Goose. Each entry must be 7 inches high by 10 inches wide, drawn on any medium the artist chooses, and may either be color or black and white. The entries may be matted, but not framed, must contain no scrollwork and must not be signed. The entries must depict a live bird and cannot depict bird band numbers, lettering, or initials. The artist must be a U.S. citizen, national, or resident. The artist may only submit one entry per contest. An artist who has won a contest is prohibited from reentering the contest for three years. All entries are given a number starting with 1 based on when they are received. The entries are judged in numerical order.

The judges also have strict rules. The contest prohibits them from socializing with the artists and from knowing the artist whose work they are judging. The judges must evaluate and score the entries based on anatomical accuracy, artistic composition, and suitability for reduction in the production of a stamp. The Department of Interior assigns a waterfowl expert with whom the judges may consult about anatomical accuracy. They have considerable discretion in judging artistic composition. The judges often eliminate entries with too much detail. During the first round of the competition the judges vote a painting either in or out. After the first round each judge has the discretion to bring back 5 paintings for subsequent



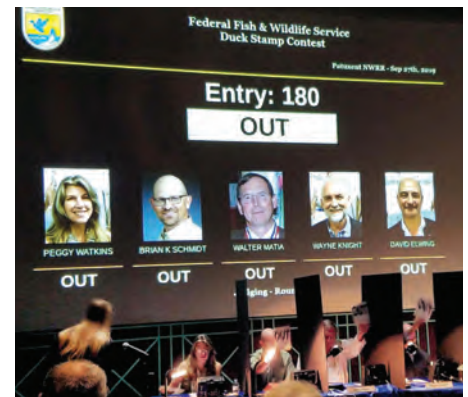
*Some of the paintings which were in the first round of the competition*



*With entry 180 on the screen, the five judges are facing the audience, and a volunteer is showing the middle judge the entry.*

judging. In the second round the judges must score each painting on a scale of 1 to 5. The entries receiving the 5 highest scores proceed to the next round regardless of how many paintings receive the same score. In the third and subsequent round the judges score the paintings on a scale of 3 to 5. The paintings with the highest scores win first, second, and third. If there is a tie, the judges keep reviewing and scoring the tied paintings until there is a clear winner. If this procedure sounds confusing and complex, in reality it moves fast and furious!

This year the judging occurred in the visitor center auditorium. The Depart-



*Judges still holding their score cards as their decision to eliminate entry 180 including each judges name and decision appears on the screen. At the end of the first round the judges voted 33 paintings onto the next round. Unknown judges then used their discretion to add an additional 10 paintings to the the second round on Saturday.*

ment of Interior live streamed it and also provided those attending with a score sheet. The judges sat next to each other at a long table facing the audience. Partitions separated each judge from being able to view the decisions of the adjacent judge. A volunteer showed the painting to each judge in turn, moving on to the next judge only after the judge viewing the painting signaled a decision. After all five judges had reached a decision, the referee ordered them to post their score.



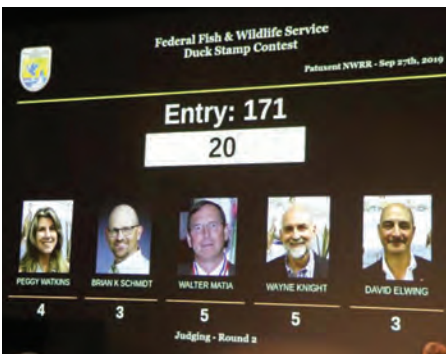
Entry 171, a painting of a pair of Buffleheads by Frank Middlestadt of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin made it into the third round of voting and eventually received the third place award.



Entry 20, Black-bellied Whistling ducks by Eddie Leroy of Eufaula, Alabama was the clear winner after the third round.



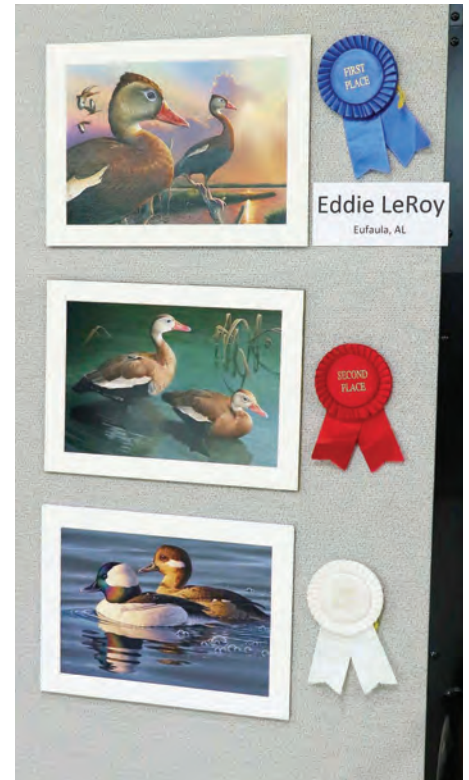
Second place winner, Black-bellied Whistling ducks by Cory McLaughlin.



Entry 171 being judged.



Entry 20 being judged.



First, second and third place winners.



Some of the paintings which made it into the second round

The final rounds of the competition began at 10 am Saturday morning. During the first round the judges scored the paintings on a scale of 1 - 5.

Thirteen paintings made it to the third round of voting the judges used a scale of 3 to 5 on each painting.

The judges held a fourth round to break the tie between the Buffleheads and Black-bellied Whistling ducks painted by Cory McLaughlin of Wells, TX.

The judges reached their final decision a little after noon on Saturday with Cory McLaughlin taking second place

*Continued on page 23*

# Dashing Through the Snow at the 2019 Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

By Jeanne Latham, Holiday Bazaar Committee Member

**O**K – so we didn't have snow, but visitors had an opportunity to dash through the woods on the wildlife conservation tram tours!

A tram tour was one of many activities for visitors and shoppers at the 9th annual Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar on November 2. There were over 550 visitors that day who had a great time shopping Baldy's Bargains and nearly 30 vendors tables; checking out the live American kestrel; doing crafts; eating or buying goodies from the Crane Café and bake sale; and of course experiencing nature as they rode the tram through the Refuge. Folks also had the chance to purchase wonderful items from the Friends Wildlife Images bookstore.

We had an amazing Wildlife Holiday Bazaar! As the photos can attest, the holiday feeling was in the air at the event.

The Friends organization thanks everyone who made donations for Baldy's Bargains, the plant table, and baked goods for the bake sale. There were so many visitors that for the first time, we had to have volunteers help park cars! The Friends realized over \$4,000 from vendor fees; plus revenue from Baldy's bargain sales; donations at the plant table; and sales at the Crane Café and bake sale.

A huge "thanks" goes to each of the many volunteers who made this event possible and such a success. Chairing this fundraising event was Brenda Stone; Mary Ann Hartnett arranged for the terrific vendors; Gail Melson ran the Crane Café and bake sale, and Stephanie Everett was her assistant. Jeanne Latham coordinated the volunteers for the set-up days and the day of the event. Thanks to Linda



**Stopping at the vendors for that special find.**

Shive, the bookstore manager, and her staff of volunteers for welcoming shoppers and providing more holiday choices to buy. The volunteers on the set-up days included: Nell Baldacchino, Ken Cohen, Marie Delaney, Stephanie Everett, Dennis Hartnett, Bobby Jones, Tom Kirby, Jean Larson, Jess Mousley, Nancy Morrissey, Sue Priftis, Chris Trimmell, Natalie Woomer and Ziaul Zannat. Volunteers who helped on event day were: Kelsey Arthur, Nell Baldacchino, Matt Beziat, Ken Cohen, Brian Coyle, Eamon Coyle, Marie Delaney, Ame Draig, Stephanie Everett, Ed Grimes, Lucy Grimes, Dennis Hartnett, Ann Hodgdon, Maric Holden, Nathan Iven, Bobby Jones, Jean Larson, Kathy Lynn, Pira Mijatov-Iven, Steve Mirsky, Jess Mousley, Nancy Morrissey, Claudia Papillo, Natalie Paarke, Sue Priftis, Gwen Robinette, Chris Trimmell, Ann Vore, Natalie Woomer and Ziaul Zannat. Refuge staff who supported the



**Shoppers finding eats and goodies at the Bake sale.**

event and helped us out included: Diana Ogilvie, Jen Chin, Tim Parker, Martin Brockman, Jeff Bolden, Kaitlyn Baligush, Mark Riley, and Interns Molly Janc and Aubryn Walters; and Shannon Beliew from the Research Center. We apologize if we failed to mention folks who helped out.

Let's do the Wildlife Holiday Bazaar again next year! 🐾





Photo: Nell Baldacchino

**Searching for treasures at Baldy's Bargains.**



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

**Happy shoppers – and vendors!**



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

**Marie Delaney and guest at plant table.**



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

**Kids had fun making a holiday crafts.**



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

**Volunteers with directional pole (from left to right: Eamon Coyle, Chris Trimmell, Jeanne Latham and Bobby Jones)**



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

**Friends pay table with Natalie Woomer (left) and Nancy Morrissey.**

# A “Curiosity Playground” at Patuxent (and beyond)

By Karen E.H. Atwood, Volunteer

**H**ave you ever been out for a walk, looked down at the ground and wondered, “Who left this little pile of poo on the trail?” or “What made all those little marks in the mud?” Perhaps you were hiking around at Patuxent, saw a beautiful bird flash-dash from a bush, heard intriguing notes up in a tree; noticed a tiny, perfectly patterned beetle on a log, or watched colorful butterflies and wished you knew more about them. Maybe you noticed clouds popping up all around you and had the weather change *right over your head* during your visit! Perhaps you’re a reader, concerned about our global plastics plague, local recycling challenges, air/water pollution on our planet, and pondering personal responses.

If any of the above describes you or your family, you’re in luck! We have a free and flexible way for you to explore all of the above, and more. **“Family Fun,”** also perfect for individuals, is a set of unique learning experiences, available to all. Discovery materials, games and crafts for ages two through adult await you, designed for both “drop-in-when-you-want” (*during regular Visitor Center hours*) and “join-in-for-special-activity” participants. Anyone may come satisfy their curiosity at the stations any time on their own during Center hours, and/or come to the special activity at the once-a-month new-topic debut sessions. *Family Fun* Coordinator Stephanie Everett is a Master Naturalist. She and other volunteers\*\* introduce the new topics at kick-off sessions, guide the special and regular activities, and can provide answers and additional resources. (The Friends of Patuxent’s *Wildlife*



**Young Gryphon Uzzo discovers what an owl ate, by “keying out” animal bones he dissected from a (sterilized) owl pellet at Family Fun, with the help of a Patuxent Volunteer.**



**Patuxent Volunteer Natalie Coolio helps young Gryphon Uzzo dissect an owl pellet at a Family Fun “kickoff” special activity, to explore what the owl ate. We use sterilized pellets from a biological supply company.**

*Images* bookstore/nature shop, in the other end of the Visitor Center building, also carries books and games for associated learning.)

The new-topic kickoffs typically run on a Friday and Saturday\*, about mid-

month. Independent exploration and uses are still welcome at the stations, even during the monthly topic kick-offs. January, 2020, leads the new year with learning about tracks and scat! For monthly kick-off topic dates and times, please see a current flyer, or visit: [fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/publicprograms.html](https://fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/publicprograms.html)

Everett pioneered this indoor, year-round program in 2016 to share her love for Nature in an alternative way to that of existing programs. She had volunteered with some of the Refuge’s age-and-date-specific, preregistration programs and realized that there were interested people for whom such programs were not optimal or feasible. Refuge staff recognized the value of her observation, and she developed the *Family Fun* experiences so that individual visitors and families of broad age-ranges can explore and learn in informal contexts, with maximum flexibility during Visitor Center hours. Prior to developing this program as Patuxent Volunteer, Stephanie had a successful career as a research scientist for the U.S. Navy in communication systems and voice technology. She grew up in rural Maine, and credits hikes with her father as the source of her love for the outdoors.

*Family Fun* has had some folks become regular attendees through the years! Stephanie notes that she has enjoyed getting to know some attendees, including children and their family members, and seeing them grow and learn over time. Come explore! Family Fun activity stations and materials reside to the right and just down the hall

*Continued on page 20*

# Hollingsworth Gallery - Winter 2020

By Faith Leahy-Thielke, Patuxent Volunteer


**T**ime has gone so fast this year – it seems as if last week I was planting a garden, but winter really is here. December’s quilts are warming their recipients and new exhibits will grace Hollingsworth: **Blandine Broomfield** in January, **James Phillips** in February, and **Jennifer Becker** in March.

A government shutdown last year in January kept us from viewing **Blandine Broomfield’s** work that month, but she – and we – get another chance this year. Broomfield was born and raised in Maryland and still lives in Annapolis. Raising a family of 10 children “paused” (her word) her art education. She writes that during this period her favorite art work was impressionism and ink illustrations in children’s books. In 2016, with five of her children now adults, she was able to take painting classes and has been painting every day since. She paints fast – one a day because that’s what she loves to do. Broomfield is happy too that realism has resurged as a valued art form and describes her technique as “realistic impressionism.” She uses canvases of all sizes, miniature to life-sized for her “typical subjects:” waterways, nature, skies and people, drawn from life or her own photography. She also invests her talent in special “unusual projects.” Broomfield received permission to do a series using images of a tragic earthquake in Italy as “reference material.” One of her paintings from that group, “Probe for Survivors,” won first prize in a Maryland Federation of Arts show. She is currently exhibiting publicly at WSSC headquarters, Bowie City Hall, Howard County Center for the Arts, and several others. She’s received awards from Paint Annapolis Nocturne and the 2018 League of Innovation. Broomfield will bring fresh air as well as “plein air” into our gallery!

**James Phillips’** photography last decorated Hollingsworth in October of 2017. Born a Marylander, a marriage moved him north to Pennsylvania. He writes that in 1975 his interest in nature and photography was sparked by a unique opportunity to hike and camp out west – from the bottom of the Grand Canyon along the Colorado River to a 12,000-foot height in the Rockies for almost a month. On returning he attended photography classes at Dundalk Community College to refine his skills. Although Phillips is still employed – in Baltimore! – he has pursued his avocation throughout his working life. Two years ago, he described his favorite subject as waterfalls and water in motion. Although he still lists them as favorites, his focus is now land and seascapes. Last fall he traveled to Maine, New Hampshire, the Poconos, and the Delaware Water-Gap. In Pennsylvania’s Wildwood Park, he aimed his cameras at wetland birds. Last Summer, he planted salvia in his yard and was thrilled at a tiny invasion – of hummingbirds lured by the flowers’ vibrant colors. Phillips used a wide open f2.8 lens and at 1/600ths of a second was even able to capture their wings in detail.

Phillips enjoys sharing his inspired images. He’s displayed and sold work at local festivals and won “various awards” at shows and contests. For the past few years he’s been producing a calendar for his church. Phillips prints his own work on canvas and a variety of fine art papers using large format printers. For a change I’m really looking forward to February.

**Jennifer Becker’s** family was military so she has called two continents and several states “home.” Her formal studies were in physics and math at the University of Wisconsin, but her artistic bent dates back to childhood. For the last 16 years she’s worked for com-

panies developing and designing video games, contributing art elements and technical modifications. Becker describes herself as a fine/freelance artist who creates illustrations with mixed and digital media, “brands” and creates “graphic design assets” for digital and printed material. Self-taught, she’s acquired proficiency in several media – primarily soft pastel, watercolor, ink and graphite. Tired of city life, she left Austin, Texas a few years ago to be closer to family and “remote and wilder” areas where she could observe native plants and insects for a “particular project.” She is interested in ecosystems that form around native trees and produces images of insects or birds – each with its host or nectar plant – that form a progression in that system. Her original botanical watercolors and prints of these natives are intended as educational tools that help people understand the reliance and interrelationships of organisms in “healthy, mature ecosystems.” 

**No winter doldrums  
in Hollingsworth.**



# Chan's "Wisdom"

By Matthew C. Perry

**B**ased on worldwide banding records, scientists know for certain that the oldest known wild bird in the world is a female Layson albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) that has the appropriate name of "Wisdom." She was banded by scientist, Chandler Robbins, of Patuxent Research Refuge in 1956 on an island in the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. She was nesting at the time, so it was estimated that she was born in 1951, as it takes five years to reach sexual maturity. However, she could have been born earlier!!!

Each year since being banded she has returned to the same island and most likely has successfully raised young. She has survived despite oil spills, plastic waste, fishing gear, storms, and other adverse elements that occur in the Pacific Ocean, where she spends most of her annual life cycle. She is clearly a miracle bird having the wisdom that can only be speculated by biologists, who have monitored her annually. Chan Robbins is the person who initiated this spectacular conservation story by capturing and banding this unique bird.

The story of Wisdom and other albatrosses has an interesting connection to the U.S. Navy. In World War II, the Navy took control of Midway as an important location for the Distant Early Warning system, commonly referred to as the DEW Line. Unfortunately for the Navy, the albatrosses had claimed the island many years earlier and were not about to be scared away due to an aircraft landing strip in their territory. The potential danger to planes if they hit a flying albatross was serious enough to call in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) bird experts in 1954. Chan Robbins joined the team in 1956 and soon became the leading expert on albatrosses. He and the team conducted numerous surveys



*Layson albatross, named Wisdom, has successfully survived and nested for six decades. Photo by USFWS, 2011.*



*Chan Robbins, with string of bands around his neck, and assistant on Midway banding albatrosses, 2006. Photo by USFW*

and experimented with techniques to reduce contact between planes and birds. Based on their recommendations, the Navy paved areas alongside the runways, thereby increasing the safe zone for planes during departure and landing. The Navy also leveled some sand dunes near the airstrips, which deterred the long-winged albatrosses that need the updraft from dunes to get airborne.

Chan Robbins returned to Midway for nine winters during the 1950s and 1960s. During these trips he banded over 90,000 birds and rebanded some that had old worn bands. In 2006, he returned to Midway and captured and rebanded Wisdom, who at that time had been banded for 50 years. Because of the fame Wisdom had achieved, the FWS has given close attention to Wisdom and recorded her



*Wisdom on Midway Atoll with young. Photo by Dan Weedman.*



*Chan Robbins on Midway with nesting albatrosses in background in 2006. Photo by USFWS.*

productivity every year. In early 2019, Wisdom was captured on Midway, and after confirming the band number, the FWS notified the press that this remarkable bird had again broken its own longevity record. Wisdom also was still successfully producing eggs and young among the other million albatrosses and other marine birds that make this National Wildlife Refuge such an important breeding habitat. In November 2019, the FWS reported that Wisdom had arrived on Midway to begin another nesting season. Wow, what a miracle bird!!!

Humans around the world, who are interested in nature, know the story



*Chan Robbins and assistant capturing and banding albatrosses on Midway Island in 2006. Photo by USFWS.*



*Chan Robbins on Midway Island with two other biologists in 2006. Photo by USFWS.*

about Wisdom and Chan Robbins. We can be proud and thankful that we can claim Chan Robbins as our own Patuxent's scientist for this remarkable achievement in the field of ornithology. Unfortunately, Chan died in 2017 at the age of 98, after an incredible career as a biologist that was served entirely at Patuxent. He set his own

longevity record by actively working at Patuxent as staff and then emeriti scientist for 70 years (1946- 2016). Now you know the story of Chan's Wisdom and, hopefully, you will do your part in educating others on the importance of wildlife conservation and the benefit to society of indefatigable biologists like Dr. Chandler Robbins. 🐾

# 2019 Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner

By Diana Ogilvie, Park Ranger, Volunteer Coordinator.

The Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Potluck Supper on Sunday, November 17, attracted close to 100 volunteers, friends, Friends and special guests. In case you missed it, here is a replay in pictures. This year's theme was Volunteers – Past, Present and Future. Throughout the evening we viewed pictures on the big screens of Patuxent's past, present and future volunteers working to help the refuge accomplish our mission.



Photo: Karen Atwood

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



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

After dinner and dessert, Friends of Patuxent Board Chair Rich Dolesh introduced himself and the Friends of Patuxent and thanked volunteers for their service to the refuge.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager

## Next up - Award presentations!

25 hour award - Maureen Fine reached her 25 hour milestone. (no picutre available.)



Photo: Karen Atwood

50-hours – Jess Mousley.



100 hours – Ann Sunny, Don Luery, Mark Seaver, Shannah Cumberbatch, Nishanth Sunny, Devora Wilkinson, Karen Atwood.



Photo: Karen Atwood

Brad introduced special guest, former USFWS director Dan Ashe, who gave a presentation on his current work as president and CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

### Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Vision

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums envisions a world where all the people respect, value and conserve wildlife and wild places.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

250 hours - Dave Tate.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

1,000 hours - Marie Delaney



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

2,500 hours – Stephanie Everett.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

300 hours – Aubryn Walters, Will Hershkowitz, Joyce Wineland, Steve Mirsky.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

1,000 hours - Jeannette Grotke, Bobby Jones, Barrie Hershkowitz.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

3,000 hours – Mary Ann Hartnett, Frances Kent.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

400 hours –Wendy Whittemore, Gail Melson, Sue Priftis.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

1,500 hours – Anne Coren, Matt Beziat.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

5,000 hours - Mike Goldberg .



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

500 hours – Nancy Newman Pape, Chris Trimmell.



Photo: Karen Atwood

2,000 hours – Nell Baldacchino.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

8,000 hours – Bill Harms, Jerry Feldman.



Continued on page 16

## 2019 Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner

Continued from page 15



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

9,000 hours – Brenda Stone.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

12,500 hours – Rod Burley.



Photo: Karen Atwood

10,000 hours – Joe DiGiovanni (not pictured).



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Gwen Robinette and Allan Dansie (not pictured) joined the list of volunteers who have been at Patuxent for over 20 years.

## Nominees for Volunteer of the Year

This year we received 17 nominations for 11 volunteers, all standouts in their own right.

**Meo Curtis** – for her dedication to native plant gardens and monarch waystation throughout North and Central tracts. She is also involved in the UMD Extension Service Foundation Bed Project, University of Minnesota Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project, Trout in the Classroom, and special events.

**Marie Delaney** – is a regular front desk volunteer at North tract, a member of the Family Fun education team which

offers active learning programs for all ages. She has stepped up to fill the 12-mile guided bike tour vacancy left by Steve Beasley when he moved to California. She also assists with gardening, nestbox surveys and special events.

**Joe DiGiovanni**- is the premier landscaper/gardener at north and central tracts. He leads the team that maintains the beautiful pollinator gardens and monarch waystation. He also monitors trails, produces stone carvings, and helps with photography, outreach, special events and educational programs. He is always willing to give a helping hand and works tirelessly to create beautiful landscapes for visitors as well as create habitat for pollinators.

**Bill Harms** - is the leader of the Patuxent Research Refuge Plant Inventory Project (PIP). He has more than doubled the herbarium collection to over 5,000 specimens. The PIP team collects, identifies, dries, presses, mounts, preserves and repairs specimens. In 2018 the team began digitizing the collection and adding it to a distinguished botanical website. He has led a team of volunteers who organize plant mounting parties, learning digitization software, repairing and preserving vintage specimens from 1930's and more. His dedication and drive keep the herbarium relevant.

**Tom Hayes** – is a trail steward, reporting on wildlife observations, trail prob-



lems, and visitors encountered. While on the trails he interacts with visitors and answers questions about wildlife in the area. In less than one year he has completed over 38 trail steward trips totaling over 100 hours and submitted detailed reports on trips.

**Emilio Herrera** – for his work with biologist Sandy Spencer and assistance with the Patuxent Research Refuge-wide forest inventory. He navigated to more than 100 survey points, diligently collected data, and became an expert in tree identification. In spite of the ticks, heat, humidity, mosquitos, chiggers and long walks off the trails, they were able to complete 2 to 4 survey points a day until completion of the project.

**Barrie Hershkowitz** – completely redesigned the Kids Discovery Center to include several hands-on age-appropriate Montessori-based activities that make it more educational and inviting for kids. She creates new themes and activities each month. She has added to and improved the children’s book library, obtaining new/used nature books, organizing, cataloging, and providing different book subjects each month to enhance offerings in the Kids Center. She also created the extensive living Monarch life cycle butterfly exhibit which engaged all ages of the visiting public, and conducted Monarch butterfly outreach to local elementary schools.

**Ann Hodgdon** – is an enthusiastic, dedicated and knowledgeable environmental education volunteer. She works with both school field trip programs during the school year and with summer camps, and has the distinction of being the education volunteer with the most hours devoted to teaching programs. Her skills as a retired teacher allow her to differentiate lessons for different ages of children, masterfully handle behavior issues, adapt and develop new materials for programs, and train new EE volunteers. She also leads tram tours, helps with Family Fun and numerous special events.

**Bobby Jones** – drives the wildlife conservation tram, interprets for tram tours, mentors and trains interns and

## Volunteer of the Year



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

*The Volunteer of the Year for 2019 is Barrie Hershkowitz.*

new volunteers on tram tours. He leads the trail steward program, has developed trail steward reports that document work of trail steward team, compiles statistics each quarter. He also helps with special events, outdoor and indoor maintenance whenever needed, subs at front desk whenever needed, and helps open and close the Visitor Center.

**Tom Kirby** – leads the songbird nestbox survey and the more than 10-person volunteer force who check over 90 boxes on three tracts. He conducts nestbox maintenance, repair and placement, holds annual orientation classes and trains volunteers each year, and holds an end-of-season wrap-up. In addition, he monitors phenophases of selected plants for Project Budburst and Nature’s Notebook and is a member of the committee designing and implementing a phenology walk at the refuge. He also helps with special events.

**Sue Priftis** – serves on the Friends of Patuxent Board of Directors. She is a dedicated member of the Lichen research team, organized a fascinating lichen presentation for volunteers and public, and also has devoted many hours as a member of the native plant gardens team at the Visitor Center.

We ended the evening with a sing-along of special lyrics honoring vol-

unteer contributions written by Jeff Silbar, Larry Henley, and Nancy Newman Pape.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

*Nancy Newman Pape.*

Many thanks to the more than 180 volunteers who contributed over 28,000 hours this year to help us maintain the 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, Ann Hodgdon, Nancy Newman Pape, Claudia Papillo, and Gwen Robinette, interns Aubryn Walters and Molly Janc, staff Jen Chin, Tim Parker, Mark Riley, Joe Green, Kaitlyn Baligush, and Jeff Bolden and photographers Nell Baldacchino and Karen Atwood, 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. 🐾



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

*The Dickey Chicks - Gwyneth Dickey Zakaib, Rachael Dickey Gilde and Thomas Dickey, 3 of the 4 chicks of Diana Ogilvie (Dickey) returned to sing about young whooping cranes’ first migration.*

# Around the Refuge

North Tract photos by Jerry Herman



*White-tailed deer fawns*



*Red-winged Blackbird*



*Osprey nest with chick*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird*



*Tiger Swallowtail*



*Great Egret*

Photos by Matt Beziat



*Spiny Oak-slug Moth (North Tract)*



*False Turkey Tail (North Tract)*



*Winterberry (North Tract)*



*Sweetgum (North Tract)*



*Common Buttonbush (South Tract)*



*Spatterdock (South Tract)*

# Matt Perry Receives Award

By Nell Baldacchino

**F**riends Board member Dr. Matthew Perry received the Annual Heritage Award for 2019 from the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Heritage Committee at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Retirees Association reunion in Annapolis on November 13, 2019. Matt, who served on the FWS Retirees Association Board 2012-2016 and then on the FWS Heritage Committee, was presented the award for his role in helping to preserve Fish and Wildlife Service history. After working a couple of years with the Service’s Division of Refuges, Matt transferred to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in 1971. He has served as its unofficial historian for decades. In addition to research articles, Matt has authored numerous articles about Patuxent’s history including many interesting stories in the Friends Newsletter. Matt was instrumental in organizing events to celebrate both Patuxent’s 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries. He edited the opus, *The History of Patuxent: America’s Wildlife Research Story*, which was published in 2016 and, according to FWS His-



**Nate Hawley, Division Chief of Creative Resources (acting for FWS Historian Mark Madison), Presented the Annual Heritage Award to Dr. Perry.**

torian Mark Madison, is considered “a monumental contribution to both the refuge system’s history and the history of American wildlife.” Matt maintains

contact with current and retired staff and keeps fellow retirees informed of significant Patuxent events including the sad passing of colleagues. 🐾

## A “Curiosity Playground” at Patuxent

*Continued from page 10*

from the entry doors, inside the Patuxent Research Refuge National Visitor Center, on the Refuge’s South Tract, near Laurel, MD, not far from Bowie State University.

*\*Held on Fridays to accommodate home-schoolers, but everyone is welcome, both days.*

*\*\*More volunteers, welcome. If possibly interested, please contact Stephanie at a Family Fun new-topic kick-off session, or email Diana Ogilvie, Refuge Volunteer Coordinator: [diana.ogilvie@fws.gov](mailto:diana.ogilvie@fws.gov)* 🐾



**Visitors check out a winter “bear den” at a former Family Fun activity station.**

Photo: Stephanie Everett

# Patuxent Resident Trumpeter Swans

By Frank McGilvrey, Volunteer/Biologist Emeritus and Rod Burley, Volunteer/Birder

**T**he trumpeter swan is the largest, heaviest bird in North America. Historically, this swan nested all across northern North America. By 1933, only 70 birds were known to exist in the Yellowstone area. Then, a large population was found in Alaska's Copper river delta. Reintroductions from this population into a number of areas has brought the species back to 46,000 by 2010. One of those reintroductions was in southern Ontario. This (supposed) nonmigrant population has steadily increased from the first releases in 1982. The first wild nesting in Ontario was not until 2002.

The trumpeter swan and tundra swan are very difficult to tell apart, so no thought was given to their possible presence on the Refuge until 2008 when a bird that was color-banded in Ontario showed up. Then we started to look for them. But you had to be close! An apparent hybrid was recorded in 2013. Our next confirmed record was in 2015. Beginning in 2016, Maryland records have been growing rather rapidly. There have been no record of families. Trumpeters normally pair at age five and don't nest until they are six. All banded sightings have been of young birds. The March 19, 2018 issue of the Bay Journal has an interesting article on Patuxent trumpeters with sightings from Greg Crites and Sandy Spencer. The six sightings in February and early March by the weekly waterbird survey team were not included.

Up until 2018, there had been no sightings of immature trumpeters. On May 29, 2018, two immature swans were sighted by the survey team on Wood Duck Pond. There were no adults. Their necks and heads were almost black. Knowing immature tundra swans were a light grey and never having seen immature trumpeters, I assumed that is what they were. As it turned out, I was right! They were seen



every week through June. Most years, Wood Duck Pond will begin to dry up by the end of June, but record rainfall held the water levels up. By the time water levels began to fall, the swans were moulting. Unlike most birds, waterfowl moult all their flight feathers at once, and are flightless for four to six weeks. By the end of the first week in July, the pond was receding down to the sump. I started to wonder if I could get a group together to catch and move them. When we checked the pond on July 9, the swans were gone! They were found on Schangri-la. This beaver-dammed ox-bow on the Little Patuxent River is a good one-half mile through thick woods from Wood Duck Pond. How did they find it! I was told that the Cornell University Ornithological lab had discovered many species of birds, and especially swans, could smell water at a considerable distance. Now we knew. By August 20, they were back on the wing. We found them on another impoundment in ear-

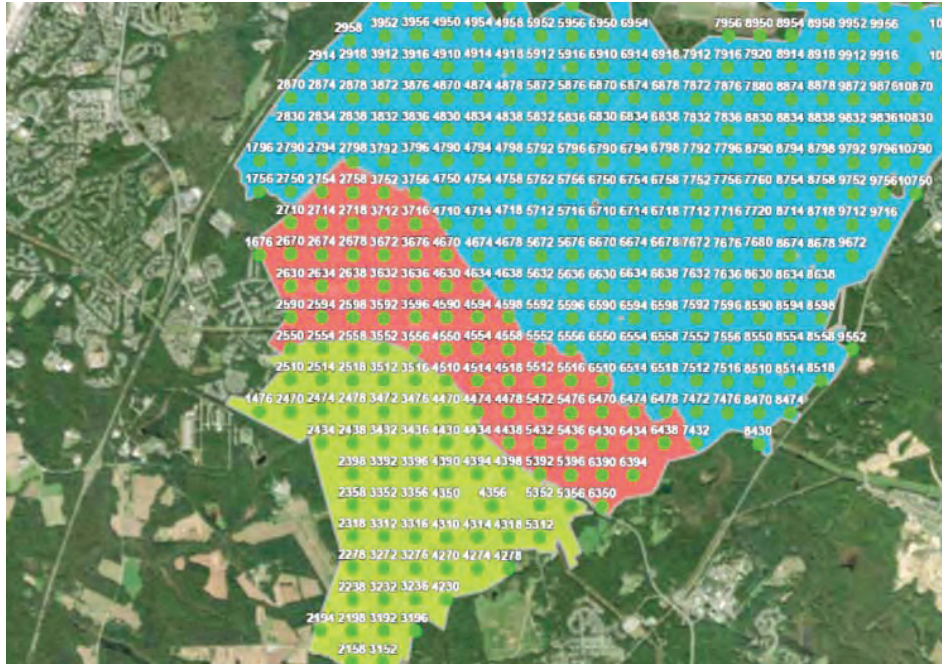
ly Sept. The waterbird surveys were discontinued at the end of September, and there were no more sightings in 2018.

Swans were again observed in early 2019. In fact, they were observed flying along the Little Patuxent River from the Little Patuxent River Trail on January 1 by folks participating on the Christmas Bird Count. They were observed off and on through the winter and by early spring were a target for many birders visiting the refuge. They seemed to be found mainly on Merganser Pond and Bailey Marsh, but would also drop in at Wood Duck Pond once it had filled. At times they would disappear completely and just when it was thought that they had left for good, they would once again be found in one of their favored haunts. On March 3, 2019 they were observed and photographed mating, or attempting to at Merganser Pond, and were

*Continued on page 22*

## Forest Inventory at Patuxent Research Refuge

Continued from page 4



Survey points of the Patuxent Forest Inventory


eration, coarse woody debris, invasive or rare-threatened-endangered plants, and topography. The inventory could only be done during “leaf-on”, that is, May through September. As it took nearly an hour just to do one plot, and reaching survey points often entailed long and difficult walking, no more than 4 could be done in one day. It took 3 years to get to all 316 points. That was finally accomplished this year, 2019.

There was heat, humidity, ticks, wasps and bees, mosquitos, wading, dense thickets, thirst, downed trees, but oh, it was SO worth it! Although the refuge land suffered (and still does) from disturbances and uses that impaired forest quality, it was very reassuring to find areas relatively intact with complex soils and native plants. Data was entered on the spot into a specially developed Filemaker Pro application, from which it will be summarized, ana-

lyzed, reported out and queried. Expect results in the coming year.

In addition to this quantitative information, I am compiling notes about things that impressed me at the plot or enroute for a narrative for future readers to enjoy. In the Endangered Species Area on Central Tract is a plot of well-developed native shrub species not often encountered elsewhere because it is fenced in and protected from deer. In the direction of Shafer Farm a population of Twayblade orchid (*Liparis* spp) was found. On North Tract, a stand of large pin oaks is in Area F, and one of the most extensive patches of club moss is in Area G. And the army tank near Cattail Pond hasn't moved.


## Did you know

The refuge has at least 16 species of oaks (not counting all the hybrids!). Can you name them? 

## Patuxent Resident Trumpeter Swans

Continued from page 21

observed on several other occasions in March. This is when some interesting behavior started to occur. A pair of Canada Geese had once again built their nest atop of the beaver lodge on the pond. On several occasions the swans were observed trying to chase the goose pair from the pond.

The feathers would fly as one might say. The swan pair then took aim at the nest and this is when things got strange. As stated earlier, Trumpeters usually don't pair up until age 5 and don't nest until 6 years of age. This pair continued to be observed attempting to mate and would then chase the goose pair off their nest with one swan, presumably the female, taking her place on the nest and trying to build it up to her liking by pulling material up and around her, while pushing the goose eggs out. The other swan in the mean time would be trying to hold back the goose pair. This would happen for a short while until the swans would just get up and fly off, leaving the goose pair to reclaim their nest. This odd behavior would take place each time the swans would return to the pond, The goose pair finally gave up and the swans eventually seemed to lose interest in the nest. Was this just a case of swan nesting 101 being taken by this pair?? We also wondered where they would go to molt this year. Unlike last year, this was a pretty dry year and most of the impoundments were very low or dry. Merganser Pond remained pretty full and this was where they stayed through the molt and most of the summer where they were observed and photographed by many. The last day they were observed was October 9, 2019. In Conclusion. Was this odd behavior, or just a young pair of Trumpeters just trying to find their way and learn on their own? What's next for this pair? Where did they go and did they join other swans? My biggest question, will they return and when? This volunteer/birder hopes so. 

**WE APPLAUD AND SALUTE OUR VOLUNTEERS**

## 2019 Duck Stamp Competition

Continued from page 7

and Frank Middlesteadt taking third place. How would you have voted?

The day continued with many more events. The Department of Interior's mascot, the Blue Goose greeted event visitors. Many visitors tried archery and fishing. A food truck served excellent kabobs. Ding Darling reincarnated



Actor Tom Milligan as Ding Darling

by actor Tom Milligan told us how he came to value preservation of our wild lands, the story of his creation of the federal duck stamp, and the stories behind his cartoons. He then spent almost as much time answering the audience's questions in character.

This two day event excited the imagination of the visitors. Hopefully it inspired many more people to enter the contest and the visitors to purchase the federal duck stamp and junior duck stamp. I will treasure my Scot Storm signed stamp for years to come. You can purchase a signed stamp at the Wildlife Images bookstore at the Patuxent Research Refuge's Visitor Center. 🐾

### FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

Richard Dolesh, *Chair*  
 Lowell Adams, *Vice-chair*  
 Sue Priftis, *Secretary*  
 Natalie Woomer, *Treasurer*  
 Lindsey Baker, *Director*  
 Ken Cohen, *Director*  
 Courtnye Koivisto, *Director*  
 Cathy Kuehne, *Director*  
 Matthew Perry, *Director*  
 Sue Priftis, *Director*  
 Clarence "Sparky" Sparks, *Director*  
 Marcia Watson, *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. Dates for Board meetings for is calendar year are:  
 January 21, February 18, March 17,  
 April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21  
 August 18<sup>(1)</sup>, September 15, October 20<sup>(2)</sup>,  
 November 17, December – No meeting  
 Dates, location and times are subject to change. <sup>(1)</sup> Strategic plan review  
<sup>(2)</sup> Board meeting and annual members meeting

# 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.
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# WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN!

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

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

- Quarterly newsletter (mailed on request or go to [www.friendsofpatuxent.org](http://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)*