

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



FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

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New Director at USGS Patuxent

by Matthew C. Perry, Ph.D., Director, Friends of Patuxent Board

United States Geological Survey (USGS)-Patuxent has a new Director!! On April 16, 2020, Mr. Mike Tupper, the Regional Director for USGS announced the selection of Mr. Thomas (Tom) J. O'Connell as the Director of the soon to be combined Leetown Science Center and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Mr. O'Connell had been director of the USGS Leetown Science Center during the last four years. Before coming to USGS he worked for 22 years as a fishery biologist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The last seven years with DNR were spent as the Director of their Fisheries Division, At DNR, according to Mr. Tupper, "Mr. O'Connell was known as an outstanding consensus builder, applying his strong communication and leadership skills to address many of the biggest fisheries issues facing the Chesapeake Bay and Eastern Seaboard."



Mr. Thomas "Tom" O'Connell

of Science degree in Environmental Forest Biology with an emphasis on wildlife and fish biology and management. His first job after college was for a private company, Wildlife International,

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Mr. O'Connell grew up in a suburb outside Buffalo in western New York and developed an early love for nature in the fields and farms adjacent to his childhood home. His father took him fishing and to refuges to view nature. When he learned he could make a living doing what he loved, he decided to pursue a career in natural resources.

He graduated from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry with a Bachelor

New Refuge Manager at Patuxent Research Refuge

by Matthew C. Perry, Ph.D., Director, Friends of Patuxent Board



Ms. Jennifer Greiner, new Refuge Manager of Patuxent Research Refuge, in her previous office.

Ms. Jennifer Greiner is the new Refuge Manager for Patuxent Research Refuge. Ms. Greiner is a Great Lakes native and holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from

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Friends Connecting to Friends

By Cathy Kuehne, Chair of the Friends Membership Committee

The idea to send out an email to connect Friends of Patuxent (FOP) membership during the Stay at Home period arose from my receiving publications from Mt. Cuba Center and the Shenandoah National Park Trust. The content in both was primarily video and made me feel I was back on the garden paths viewing trillium or hiking White Oak Canyon. Although the grounds at Patuxent were still open, what I missed most was meeting other volunteers and Friends members and having casual conversations about what they have been up to. Typically, these revolved around nature – animal sightings and stories, garden successes and failures, and seeing pictures of most recent hiking vacations or hearing about upcoming plans.

The idea to create an email to members that centered around these exchanges was pitched to the FOP Board of Directors and was born. Folks on the Membership Committee were most enthusiastic so the committee (Sue Priftis, Jeanne Latham, Pam Waterworth, me, and “emeritus” member Ken Lavish) took on the task. The content of the first issues was written by the committee members to expedite getting “Friends Connecting to Friends” published quickly. As mentioned in the introduction to this issue, it is a platform for all Friends members to share their stories and connect with each other.

The plan is for “Friends Connecting to Friends” to be sent out biweekly throughout this period of restricted activity and social gatherings. It is in addition to the publication of the FOP newsletter and has a different, perhaps more personal, focus. The Membership Committee loves seeing the pictures and reading the stories that are submitted and getting a better insight into the folks who wrote them. We hope you do too. 

Nature’s Sanity

By Ross Feldner, FOP Newsletter Editor, Volunteer


My wife and I hiked around Cash Lake on a recent Sunday to counterbalance the “cabin fever” and spate of sad, scary news we all deal with on a daily basis.

We had planned on hiking the Rachel Carson trail in Burnt Mills, but when we arrived we found the parking lot full. So many people hunger to get out of their homes and refresh themselves with the reassurance of nature. We then decided to press on to Patuxent instead. When we arrived we were amazed that the parking lots there were almost full! People’s need to connect with nature during difficult times was clearly apparent.

There were families, couples, dog walkers and many people fishing. We hiked along keeping our eyes out for birds and wildlife. Our trek was rewarded with many species of birds and their joyful spring songs.

I have read articles recently that quote people asking things like “are there more birds now?” The reason they are hearing them more now than before the novel corona virus pandemic is because there is way less human noise and way less human activity. Nature has responded in other ways, such as wildlife roaming through empty streets and birds nesting on Gulf of Mexico beaches where there would normally be throngs of beachgoers.

All this clearly shows people taking solace in nature during these trying times. I know I do. In our current “crazy” world, seeing wildlife, hiking through the woods, and “stopping to smell the roses” are reassurances of normality and a great comfort.

As the great author and founder of the modern environmental movement, Rachel Carson said in her last book *Sense of Wonder*, published posthumously, “There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.” 

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

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.

Why You Really Do Need One More Field Guide

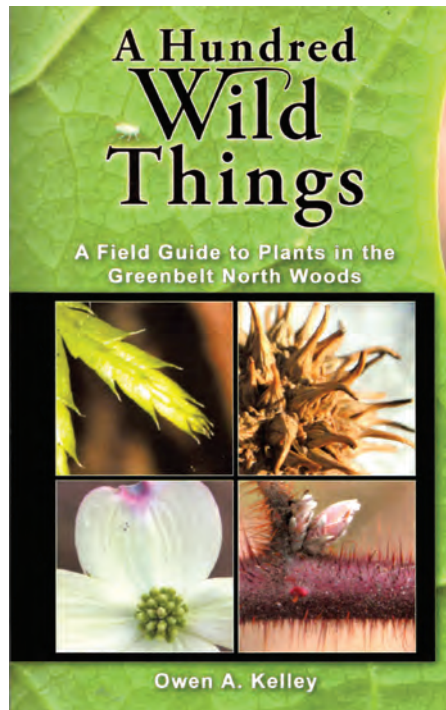
By Mary Ann Hartnett, Volunteer

Even though you might not know it, you really do need one more field guide. Why? Because ***A Hundred Wild Things***, the recently written and published book by Owen A. Kelly, is a must have for anyone (young and old) who identifies plants in and around the greater Greenbelt area.

Mr. Kelly's intent for this easily carried 8" by 5" softback book is to help "identify trees, wildflowers, lichens...in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve AKA the 'Great North Woods' of Greenbelt." The author is a Greenbelt resident who is "fiercely protective of this forest's wild character". This 243-page book is divided into sections for trees, bushes/woody vines, wildflowers, ferns/mosses/clubmosses and fungi/slime molds/lichens. The last 4 pages contain maps for hiking the trails in the North Woods of Greenbelt. More on this later.

What is extra special about this book are the fabulous closeup, colored pictures of the flora of the North Woods. Several pictures show the actual size of leaves, flowers and seeds. The closeups of the bark are really useful in identifying tree species in the winter.

Since this guide is limited to plant species in the Great North Woods of Greenbelt you have fewer comparisons to make for identification. No more keying out to discover that what you think you have found only exists on the other side of the world. Also, since most, but not all of the plants covered are native to the area (invasives such as the callery pear, English ivy and Chinese wisteria are identified because they are out there), you can find many of these same plants



while hiking locally or even in your own back yard.

Here is important information you need to know before planning a hike in the Great North Woods of Greenbelt. This

beautiful forested area has been preserved as a native habitat. That said, walking these trails is not like hiking at the Refuge. The trails are not blazed, nor marked with any signage. Even with the maps in the book, you need a good sense of direction and perhaps a compass. There are creeks to ford and fallen trees to climb over. Trail maintenance is not to be expected. You do see nature at its best. I like to think of it as a giant step back in time. What was it like for the Native Americans traversing a forest? They did not have chain saws to remove fallen trees, and streams were likely to flood during periods of heavy rain. If you are up for a somewhat challenging walk, the Great North Woods is the place to go, and of course bring you're ***A Hundred Wild Things*** guide book to identify all the plants that live there as you saunter along.

What better excuse to get out doors than to make use of you new field guide?

This book is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other sources. 🐾

VOLUNTEER ART SHOW DECEMBER 2020

Hollingsworth Gallery
ZUFROMMAH@GMAIL.COM
For more info

New Refuge Manager at Patuxent Research Refuge

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Kalamazoo College in Michigan. She also was awarded a master's degree in Natural Resource Policy and Administration from the University of Michigan. In 1993, she moved to Washington, DC, and worked for the Congressional Research Service on issues dealing with natural resource policy. During the last 26 years she has been with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and has served the agency at its national headquarters, the North-Atlantic Region, and the field level.

Her past contributions include reform of policies under the Endangered Species Act and serving as National Coordinator for the agency's Coastal Program. Her most recent assignment was as coordinator in science applications of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Habitat Goal Implementation Team. This team focuses on restoration of underwater grasses, wetlands, forest buffers, and streams across the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake watershed. Jennifer and her family live south of Annapolis, Maryland, where she enjoys paddling, RVing, running half marathons, and singing in a cover band called Shoal Sister.

Although Patuxent was created in 1936 and now is in its 84th year of existence, Jennifer is only the 4th refuge manager. That is because from 1936 to 1993, Patuxent operated as a research refuge with a Director and not a Refuge Manager. In 1993, however, all research in the Department of the Interior was removed from their parent agency and was established as one research unit as the National Biological Survey. This agency was short-lived and when Congress dissolved it, all research was transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). When this occurred Patuxent Research Refuge continued as part of the USFWS refuge program, but no longer had the research component in its mission.



Past director of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Mr. Harold J. O'Connor (center) with past refuge manager, of Patuxent Research Refuge, Ms. Susan McMahon, talking with Congressman Steny Hoyer at 2004 Wildlife Festival. PWRC Director Judd Howell in background at left.

Mr. John Stasko came to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC) as the Facility manager in 1987. In this capacity he was responsible for all maintenance and management of the grounds and buildings. In 1988, Mr. Stasko became the first official refuge manager of Patuxent Research Refuge. Ms. Susan McMahon was hired as the deputy refuge manager in 1988, and also served as the facility manager at that time.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s Patuxent was heavily involved in the planning and construction of the National Wildlife Visitor Center located on the South Tract of Patuxent. This facility was planned to describe the wildlife research programs of the USFWS on a national perspective. Refuge Manager Stasko worked closely with the Director of PWRC, Mr. Harold J. O'Connor, for several years. After the Visitor Center was dedicated in 1994, Mr. Stasko became Director of the Visitor Center, at which time Ms. McMahon became refuge manager. Ms. McMahon served as Refuge Manager until 1999, when she transferred to the Regional Office.

Mr. Brad Knudsen became refuge manager in 2000. Brad hired Ms. Nancy Morrissey as Deputy Refuge Manager in June 2002 and she worked closely with him for many years until her retirement 2014. Brad collaborated with managers of USGS

Photo by Ed Grimes.



Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen congratulates Dr. Chan Robbins, as most senior employee, at Patuxent's 75th anniversary, as PWRC Director, Dr. Greg Smith, looks on, October 13, 2011.

Photo by Nell Baldacchino.

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center dealing with a \$23 million special appropriation for facility maintenance, including new sewer and water lines. During his leadership Patuxent also obtained new residences for temporary and permanent staff. While construction was taking place in some areas, there also was the destruction of older buildings to reduce the facility's "footprint" on the refuge. A Comprehensive Conservation Plan was completed in 2013, which provided a 15-year blueprint for refuge wildlife/habitat and public use goals and objectives.

Mr. Knudsen also hosted nearly 1000 new refuge employees enrolled in Basic Refuge Management Academy at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia from 2001-2019 on their field trip portion of the three-week course. The briefing of these new employees included aspects of the management and research of the two agencies that existed at Patuxent.

Brad is most remembered for his great personality and his unique wit. His favorite story about his time at Patuxent came while he was a relatively new manager in 2002. He received a voicemail that stated, "Mr. Knudsen, this is ———, the US Secret Service's Weapons of Mass Destruction. Coordinator, - we need to talk!" Brad recalled, "He never did return my call,



Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen with former refuge managers, John Stasko and Susan McMahan in 2003 as part of the 100th anniversary celebration of the National Refuge System at the visitor center.

so apparently, they found another National Wildlife Refuge to blow up!"

Mr. Knudsen retired in 2019 during a period when both the refuge and the research center were dealing with reduced budgets and declining staff. Although he was only the third manager of the refuge, he had served longer than the combined time of his two refuge manager predecessors and twice as long as any of the eleven directors of the research center.

Ms. Jennifer Greiner follows in the footsteps of three previous refuge managers, who have tried to coordinate activities of a refuge management program, while being aware of the historic research facility that co-inhabited the land we call Patuxent. Hopefully, the refuge and research center will continue to work together to the betterment of the habitat and the wildlife inhabitants. 🐾

First Employee of Patuxent Research Refuge

By Matthew C. Perry, Ph.D., Director, Friends of Patuxent Board

The first employee hired as staff of Patuxent Research Refuge was Mrs. Pearl Sisler. Several other persons who came on staff in the 1930s were transferred staff from Washington Headquarters. She was a young administrative clerk when she began work in 1939 with an office in the Log Cabin. Ms. Sisler remained at Patuxent for four decades and became the Administrative Officer, a position she held for many years. For many of those years she was a resident of the Patuxent Apartment Building near the Service Building. Mrs. Sisler was very popular and is credited in making many decisions in her administrative role that helped make Patuxent the outstanding facility it was for many years.

Pearl and her husband, Dick, had one daughter, Janet. They were popular with the other employees in the four-residences in the Government Apartment Building (now empty for many years). In the 1970s, Pearl's husband was forced to retire from the Agricultural Research Center at the mandatory retirement age of 70. He did not want to retire and less than two years after retirement he died of a heart attack. When Pearl was approaching retirement herself, she said a person should not make two big decisions at one time. (Probably good advice for anyone.) So, she decided to first move off Center into Greenbelt and then to retire the next year.

The end of the fiscal year was always a very busy and hectic time of the

year for the Administrative staff. Pearl and her assistant, Rose Whitehead, worked long hours and on weekends to get all the financial matters, including last-minute purchase orders, timely resolved. At that time, staffs were small and so Pearl acted as Personnel Officer also, and she always worked to help staff with problems.



Ms. Pearle Sisler, Patuxent's first employee.

One interesting problem occurred with the arrival in 1969 of young Dr. Gary Heinz who was beginning his long career at Patuxent. The problem was that Gary had recently said goodbye to his girlfriend (Pat Saylor) still enrolled in an undergraduate program at Michigan State University. He

approached Dr. Stickel about taking leave to visit her. Dr. Stickel said, "Gary, you haven't saved up any leave yet, you just got here!" Then she said, let me see what can be arranged. No doubt, she went to Pearl and asked for some manipulating of the annual leave records to permit Gary to take off for a couple of days to visit Pat, his future wife. Neither Dr. Stickel nor Mrs. Sisler ever told Gary how they fudged the paperwork, but things were a lot more "flexible" back then. Gary told me, "Pearl did things by the book, but the book back then apparently had a chapter in it about treating employees kindly."

I arrived at Patuxent in 1971, two years after Gary, and apparently had some of his naivete. I also lived in government housing and worked weekends feeding ducks and conducting other pen

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Meet New Staff Member Jason Cangelosi

Hello, my name is Jason Cangelosi and I am excited to take on the role of Visitor Services Manager at Patuxent Research Refuge. Early in my career I worked at several environmental education centers and loved introducing visitors to all nature had to offer. Then I worked as a Program Director with several YMCAs and gained a strong interest in community partnerships. I then started my federal career with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC). I was responsible for managing 18-24 year old members as they dedicated a year to national service. Most recently I worked with the National Park Service (NPS) at the National Mall and Memorial Parks as a Supervisory Ranger, Volunteer Program Manager. It was a goal of mine to work for NPS since college, so I was happy to get into to get into the Department of the Interior (DOI). I am very pleased to be able to continue my career with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). I had the privilege to partner with USFWS during my time with NCCC to host a wildland firefighter program. My schooling is in environmental education so I am very happy to be able to work on a refuge. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my wife and daughter. We love to hike, rock climb, canoe, and go birding. I look forward to being part of the team. 🐾



Matt Beziat Nature Photographer Extraordinaire

By Bill Harms, Plant Inventory Project Coordinator



Anyone from Maryland (and beyond) who follows the nature photography pages on Facebook will certainly recognize Matt's name. He is a prolific photographer who with his smartphone and camera, takes the most amazingly stunning photographs of nature. His subjects include plants, birds, insects, and scenery.

He has won recognition for his images from Flickr and other web pages, and has contributed images to citizen scientist projects like Maryland Biodiversity Project and iNaturalist.org.

His enthusiasm for nature is catching. With his keen eye, he seems to spot plants and other subjects that no one else sees.

He also is an eager volunteer who staffs the front desk at the Patuxent Research Refuge's North Tract Visitors Contact Station, works with Mike Goldberg in putting on nature scavenger hunts on the North Tract, and performs trail monitoring duties.

His contributions to the Refuge's Plant Inventory Project make him a valued member of the team.



Photo of a Showy Orchid taken by Matt

Why We Need Insect Biodiversity

By Mary Ann Hartnett, Volunteer

On March 7, 2020, the auditorium at the Refuge was filled with members of the Friends of Patuxent and their guests to listen to Dr. Rebecca Waterworth's highly informative talk on how to Protect and Conserve Insect Biodiversity.

Dr. Waterworth is a Maryland native, graduate of E. Roosevelt High School, has a B.S. in Environmental Science and M.S. in Entomology degrees from the University of Maryland, plus a Ph. D. in entomology from the University of California at Riverside, and is currently an Affiliate with the Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland.

If these credentials are not impressive enough, Dr. Waterworth has an insect species named after her – *Cymosema waterworthae*. She discovered this previously unknown wasp that parasitizes ant larvae. (It is believed that 80% of insect species have yet to be identified – talk about diversity!)

The first order of business was to be sure everyone understood what biodiversity is, and that there are three levels: genetic, species and ecosystem. Fortunately, our rocky planet has an abundance of biodiversity especially at the species level. Think about the smallest living organisms – bacteria with 7,643 known species, then consider insects with 1,000,000 known species (“It is believed that only 20% of insect species have been described”). In between, are the vertebrates, our group, with 61,995 known species. Even with this great abundance of diversity, a United Nations Report of May 6, 2019, stated that “one million plant and animal species face extinction, many within decades”, and nearly 10% of these could be insect species. Why should we care? A loss of insect biodiversity could greatly affect food chains since insects are at one of the lower level of food chains, and often a specific food source for larger



animals. Also, without certain insects, pollination of food crops would be reduced, and harmful insect pests (think of dragonflies eating mosquito larvae) could get out of control.

What factors could lead to a decline in the number of a species? Examples are habitat destruction and fragmentation, the increase in competition from invasive species, environmental pollution, overexploitation of a species and climate change.

The good news is that due to their diversity and resilience, most insects likely will not become extinct within the next 100 years, but why take any chances? How can we help to slow down and hopefully prevent possible extinction of a beneficial insect species? Conserve habitats, stop the spread of invasive plant and animal species, reduce pollution, protect native plants, encourage the development and use of clean energy, support research on ways to do all of these

things and perhaps the easiest - have a diverse assortment of plants in your yard. Greater plant diversity leads to greater insect diversity.

In selecting plants for your garden consider location, location, location. Do you have sun or shade or both? Is an area well drained or damp? Next, what type of wildlife do you hope to support/attract? Which plants will produce pollen and nectar that are beneficial to insects. Will they require lots of maintenance (think roses), and hopefully not aggressively take over the entire garden? Maryland native plants such as *Coreopsis verticillate* (threadleaf coreopsis), *Pychanthemum tenuifolium* (narrowleaf mountain mint), *Monarda punctata* (spotted horsemint) and *Eupatorium hyssopifolium* (hyssopleaf thoroughwort) are highly recommended for attracting insects that act as natural enemies to insect pests. Think diversity when planting. Include trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers, herbs, pe-

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New Director at USGS Patuxent

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Ltd. in Easton, MD, whose focus was conducting field and laboratory studies to provide information to EPA to help them decide which chemicals to register for use in agricultural production.

Tom and his wife, Tammy, live near Frederick, MD, and have four children ages 15-21. The whole family shares a passion for the outdoors, and they enjoy fishing, camping, hiking, birding, hunting, and canoeing/kayaking. Tom also has recently become interested in photographing wildlife. As the director of the merged science center, Tom plans to divide his time between the two research facilities and work closely with his assistants at each center.

Mr. Tupper's letter to staff of the two facilities stated, "We wish to thank the staffs at Leetown and Patuxent for their continued dedication and patience during this transition, particularly John French for his commitment to the gifted and productive staff at Patuxent. John's experience and knowledge of the Patuxent team, science portfolio, facilities, and partnerships will be a valuable asset to Tom as he gains familiarity with Patuxent and establishes this new center." During the Corona Virus Pandemic, Tom has been conducting a series of meetings via the internet with the staff and management team to initiate the process of establishing a solid working relationship with center employees, and navigating towards the development of a shared center vision, organizational structure, and priorities.

Mr. O'Connell is the twelfth leader of leader of the Patuxent research center and follows in the footsteps of his distinguished predecessors, who have all added to the prestigious 84-year history of this outstanding wildlife research facility. The original facility for research was called Patuxent Research Refuge when, in 1936, President Roosevelt established this wildlife experiment station. 

History of Patuxent and Past Directors

By Matthew C. Perry, Ph.D., Director, Friends of Patuxent Board

The research facility was first managed by Dr. Leland C. Morley, a veterinarian, who was responsible for the initial construction of the three main buildings (Nelson, Henshaw, and Merriam) and then oversaw activities during World War II. He was called the Superintendent of the facility as the research at Patuxent was directed by Mr. Arnold Nelson, who worked out of headquarters in Washington, DC. Dr. Morley's office during the first few years was in a previous family residence, referred to as the Log Cabin.

In 1948, when Dr. Morley retired, Mr. Arnold Nelson moved from Washington to Patuxent and became Director over all research and the complete management of the facility. During Mr. Nelson's administration there

was a major thrust to construct new impoundments for management research of waterfowl and other wildlife populations. Upland habitats and wildlife were also studied for best management techniques with a "farm game" program.

In 1956, the Patuxent Research Refuge was renamed the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center to standardize the name with the adjacent Agricultural Research Center and another USFWS facility in Colorado. The name change was done by administrative memorandum and did not supersede the original Executive Order designation as a Research Refuge.

Dr. John L. Buckley became the director of Patuxent in 1959 and served until 1963. The pesticide research program that began in the 1940s greatly accelerated under his leadership and because of national concern following the publication of Rachel Carson's 1962 book, *Silent Spring*. Research with other pollutants like heavy metals (especially lead and mercury) also took place during Dr. Buckley's tenure. A new chemistry building was constructed to support contaminant studies. A bird control research program was also a major area of studies for Patuxent researchers, especially with blackbirds and other birds that were a problem for agriculture and aviation.

Dr. Buckley was followed by Dr. Eugene Dustman as fourth director of Patuxent in 1963. Dr. Dustman continued and enlarged the contaminant program and remained director until 1972. During his leadership, Dr. Lucille Stickel became Coordinator of the Pesticide and Pollution program. Also, during the leader-

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Dr. Leland C. Morley, Superintendent Patuxent Research Refuge, in front of his office at the Log Cabin in late 1930s.



Mr. Arnold Nelson, Director of Patuxent Research Refuge, giving a tour of the Cash Lake area for his FWS supervisor, Dr. Gustav Swanson, 1954.



Dr. Eugene Dustman at a farewell party for personnel officer, Ms. Evelyn Capriglione, left, and Dr. Lucille Stickel.



Dr. Lucille Stickel in the Director's Office working with the Assistant Director of Patuxent, Dr. Harry Ohlendorf in the mid-1970s.

ship of Dr. Dustman, Patuxent had a major initiative with the construction of Gabrielson Laboratory. Gabrielson Lab was dedicated in 1969 and was named for the popular former Chief of the Biological Survey and the first Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Dr. Ira "Gabe" Gabrielson. Dr. Gabrielson was very influential with the creation of Patuxent in 1936. The year 1969 was also memorable in Patuxent history when the first scientific paper was published linking the pesticide DDT with eggshell thinning in birds.

Dr. Lucille Stickel became the Patuxent Director in 1973, shortly after the retirement of Dr. Dustman. Dr. Ray Erickson became Associate Director in charge of the Endangered Species program, which began in 1965. During Dr. Stickel's years of leadership,



Dr. David L. Trauger

the research programs for environmental contaminants and endangered species were greatly expanded with many new researchers added to the staff. Dr. Stickel's scientific and leadership skills were recognized by many professional wildlife and contaminant organizations and she became known as the "first lady" of the Fish and Wildlife Service. During most of the 1970s the migratory bird research was conducted by a separate organization at Patuxent called the Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory with leadership by Dr. Robert Smith and Dr. Fant Martin.

Dr. David L. Trauger, who previously supervised all wildlife research facilities for the Fish and Wildlife Service at their headquarters, became the Director of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center when Dr. Stickel re-



Mr. Harold J. O'Connor

tired in 1983. During his tenure as director of Patuxent, plans were initiated to construct a visitor center on Patuxent land. Dr. Trauger also used his administrative skills to reorganize Patuxent staff and programs and delegate decisions to lower levels of staff following the concept of "Total Quality Management."

In 1987, Mr. Harold J. O'Connor became director of Patuxent and funding was obtained for a National Wildlife Visitor Center, which was located on the South Tract of Patuxent and dedicated in 1994. While planning was going on for the visitor center in the early 1990s, Patuxent received a very nice gift of 8,100 acres of natural habitat land from adjacent US Army Fort Meade facility. A Visitor Contact Station was constructed on this new

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Dr. John Buckley, left, Director of Patuxent with Mr. L. I. Doan, president of Dow Chemical Company, 1960s.

History of Patuxent and Past Directors

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land which was called the North Tract of Patuxent. A new veterinary hospital was constructed on the main campus or Central Tract of the property.

In 1993, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center was transferred with all other research centers in the Department of the Interior to the newly formed National Biological Survey (which then became the National Biological Service) and the name was changed to Patuxent Environmental Science Center in 1994. The National Biological Service was soon dissolved by Congress and all biological research and personnel were transferred to the US Geological Survey. The land area of Patuxent continued to operate as Patuxent Research Refuge under the jurisdiction of the USFWS and the first official refuge manager, Mr. John Stasko, was appointed.

In 1995, Mr. O'Connor retired from government service after 35 years and Dr. James Kushlan became the director of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. With protest from staff and the Maryland Congressional Delegation, the original name of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center was restored in 1996. Due to a reduction in Congressional funding, Patuxent was forced to go through a "reduction in force" of 26 personnel. This was a disheartening period, but allowed the Research Center to reevaluate its priorities with a Comprehensive Science Planning Process. Under Dr. Kushlan's leadership, Patuxent greatly increased its mission with monitoring of wildlife including new studies dealing with less studied wildlife like herpetofauna and invertebrates.

In 2001, Dr. Kushlan resigned as director and Dr. Judd Howell was appointed as the new director. Dr. Howell continued the reorganization process and consolidation of staff in fewer buildings on the refuge land and moved some staff to a rented building at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. In February 2006, Patuxent was



Dr. James Kushlan



Dr. Judd Howell



President George W. Bush making remarks at Patuxent with Mrs. Bush, Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen, and Research Director Howell in attendance. Photo by Eric Draper.

covered with a heavy, wet snow, which destroyed 105 of the 110 whooping crane pens. Dr. Howell personally led an all-hands effort to rebuild the pens in three-weeks' time with no loss of cranes. In fact, that spring Patuxent successfully reared and released 17 young cranes to the wild.

Dr. Howell was very successful in obtaining new funds for Patuxent to study Avian Influenza, and Dr. Diane Prosser conducted research in China concerning the movement of waterfowl. The aging buildings and infrastructure problems were addressed by Dr. Howell during his tenure until his resignation in 2008.

During Dr. Howell's tenure as Director, President George W. Bush visited Patuxent with his wife, Laura, regarding Migratory Bird Day. Dr. Howell gave the president a tour of the endangered species area and, in the process, received an invitation to visit the White House, which Dr. Howell subsequently did with his wife, Nancy.



Director Harold J. O'Connor (front left) with Science Council during late 1980s.

In 2009, Dr. Gregory Smith was selected to be the tenth director of Patuxent. Dr. Smith continued the reorganization and consolidation of his two immediate predecessors. He also expanded Patuxent's research internationally with funding to study global climate change. Dr. Smith died in China while on official travel in 2014, and Dr. Howell returned to Patuxent to be the acting Director.

In 2015, Dr. John French became director of Patuxent Wildlife Research



Dr. Gregory Smith



Dr. John French

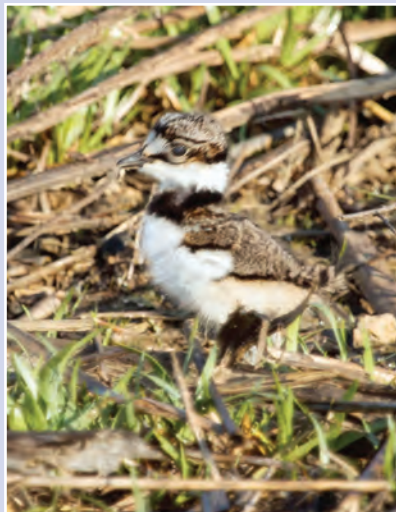
Center. Funding issues continued to be a problem and the closure of the whooping crane propagation facility and relocation of all cranes was one of the major downsizing activities. Also, during this period under Dr. French the biological laboratory located at the Smithsonian Institute was closed and personnel re-assigned to other locations.

The long downward trend in funding that led to personnel reductions and consolidations of research has now led to a merger of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center with another laboratory of USGS and the appointment on April 16, 2020, of Mr. Thomas O’Connell as the twelfth Director of the newly consolidated science laboratories. The future of Patuxent in name and stature is unknown at this time. However, all staff and alumni of the research facility that has been commonly referred to as Patuxent since 1936, can be proud of their accomplishments and hopeful for a bright and productive future. 🐾

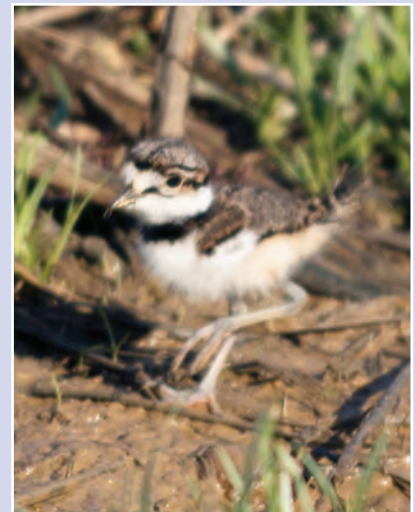
Killdeers Roadtrip!

By Timothy J. Parker, Park Ranger, Patuxent Research Refuge

This spring a pair of Killdeer decided that the gravel road to the staff parking area of the visitor center would be an ideal nesting site. While to us this choice seemed less advisable, their white and black markings did camouflage them well in the rocks. Thankfully, with careful attention by drivers, all of the chicks have safely fledged. Here are a few pictures of the family two days after hatching.



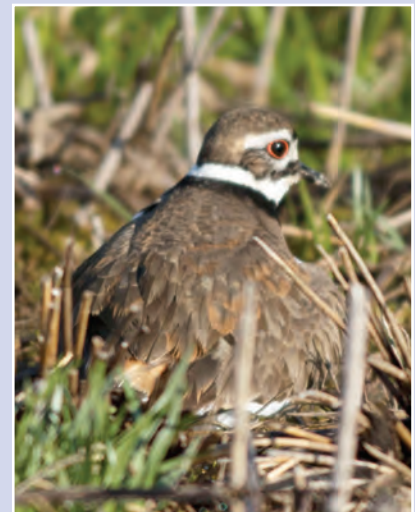
Unlike most bird species, Killdeer hatch already dressed like their parents.



By the looks of its feet, this chick has a lot of growing to do.



In 25 days this chick’s wings will be strong enough to carry it into the sky.



The mama Killdeer hides one of the chicks with a wing.

Around the Refuge

Photos by Jerry Herman



Green Frog



Bumblebee



White-tailed deer fawn



Great Blue Heron



Ruby-throated hummingbird female



Red-spotted Purple Butterfly

Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

The Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar committee is optimistic that the 2020 Holiday Bazaar will be held as planned on Saturday, November 7 from 9 to 3 at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

As always the Bazaar committee needs your help.

How to help:

- Join the committee - we need volunteers to:
 - work on advertising the Bazaar. A resource and contact list is available and most of the work can be done online from home.
 - manage the Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar Facebook page
- Bring in donations of new and gently used items for Baldy's Bargains – we will be accepting donations as soon as the Visitor Center reopens.

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

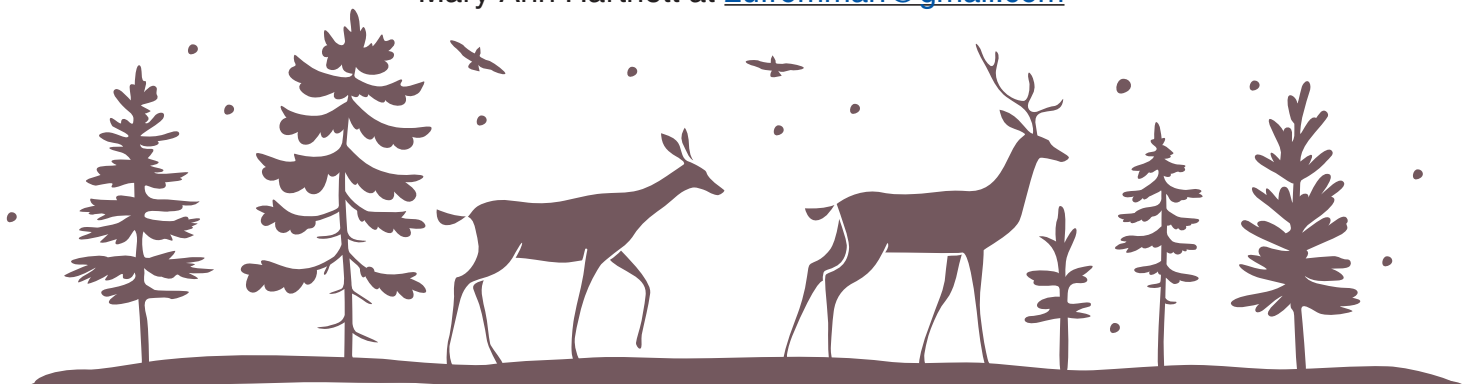
PLEASE DO NOT donate any item that will not fit in a standard, reusable shopping bag.

The deadline for donations is October 13.

- LIKE and SHARE us on FACEBOOK at **Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar**.
- Post the Bazaar information on your local **Nextdoor** site.
- Mark your calendar and come to help
 - Friday, November 6 - set up, vendor set up, and decorate
 - drop off baked goods and other goodies for the Bake Sale
 - drop off house plant donations for the plant corner
 - Saturday, November 7 - THE BIG DAY - volunteers needed.

For more information contact
Brenda Stone at stonesoop@comcast.net

For vendor information contact
Mary Ann Hartnett at 2ufrommah@gmail.com



Critter Corner - For Kids of All Ages

By Jeanne Latham, Volunteer

Are you ready for a nature challenge? Check out the fun questions below and see how you do. Then to get more information, explore the Fun Critter Facts. Guess what's really cool? These critters can be found at Patuxent Research Refuge, in Laurel, Maryland, elsewhere in Maryland, and maybe even in your own backyard.

Nature's Critters - Do You Know?

There is a common rodent which lives in trees and "flies" – what is it?

Some turtles live on the land like the box turtle. Others like to live in or near the water. Which turtle is this?

Fun Critter Facts

Southern Flying Squirrel

Wouldn't it be exciting to see a flying squirrel? I am not referring to the Eastern gray squirrel you commonly see that jumps from branch to branch. This special and amazing squirrel is the Southern flying squirrel, and the smallest tree squirrel in Maryland.

The Southern flying squirrel:

- Measures about 9-10 inches long and weighs 2-4 ounces.
- Has soft grayish-brown fur and a white furry belly.
- Has a black ring around the big eyes, which are essential for seeing at night.
- Doesn't fly like a bird or butterfly or bat. Rather, it glides.
- Has a furry fold of skin that stretches from the wrist of each front leg to



Southern Flying Squirrel. <https://www.ncpedia.org/southern-flying-squirrel-nc-wins>



Spotted Turtle. Source: http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Clemmys_guttata/



Photo by Todd Belanger, iNaturalist CC BY-NC

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/fieldguide/critter/southern_flying_squirrel

- the ankle of each rear leg. The fold of skin is known as a patagium.
- Jumps and spreads its legs forming a parachute. This acrobat uses its broad and flattened tail as a rudder to steer around branches.
- Makes its nest in tree cavities, abandoned woodpecker holes, or nest boxes.
- As a granivore, eats seeds and nuts as the main source of the diet.
- Is nocturnal, so you'd have to be out after dark to see one.
- Is in the rodent (Rhodentia) family along with porcupines, beavers, chipmunks, mice and others. All rodents have specialized teeth for gnawing, and the teeth grow continuously.
- Usually glides about 20 to 30 feet, when it takes off. It has been recorded to glide up to 240 feet. That's a long way!

Spotted Turtle

This small, beautiful, and rare turtle is considered a threatened species. This is mainly because of loss of habitat, their natural home or environment.

- May reach about 4½ inches in length.
- Can be identified, as you can tell by its name and in this photo, by the yellow or orange spots on its black shell.
- Has a top shell called a carapace, which is made up of many scutes (or plates). The carapace is smooth and broad, and slightly rounded.
- Is very active during the cool days of spring and fall.
- May emerge from the water and bask on partly submerged logs, or rocks, or grasses. It often basks in the sun in a group.
- If disturbed, will quickly dive into the water.
- Feeds in the water. It eats small prey such as snails, worms, slugs, and spiders, as well as aquatic plants.
- As a small turtle, is vulnerable to predation by many animals, particularly raccoons and muskrats.
- Is native to Maryland, and one of 19 species in Maryland.

BE AWARE and CARE: These rare Spotted turtle numbers will continue to dwindle if people keep them as pets or they are lost in traffic accidents. So watch for these wild turtles, and let them be wild – do not have one as a pet. Tell your friends and family to protect these rare and beautiful critters, and enjoy them as wild turtles. Thank you.

For more fun information you may want to visit:

Southern flying squirrel:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/Southern_Flying_Squirrel.aspx



Spotted Turtle. Photo by Matt Moore - <http://herpsofnc.org/spotted-turtle/>

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/fieldguide/critter/southern_flying_squirrel

Spotted turtle:

<https://www.marylandzoo.org/animal/spotted-turtle/>

https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/herps/Testudines.aspx?TurtlesName=Spotted%20Turtle

PERSONAL COMMENT:

I want to give credit to two special people who agreed to review this article from their perspective – my grandchildren, Abigail and Leukos. Thank you!

NOTE: Look for the “Critter Corner” in future issues of the Friends Newsletter.




First Employee at Patuxent Research Refuge

Continued from page 5

chores. I remember my supervisor telling me that the chores were required as part of the benefit to me of having government housing. The rent at that time was only \$150 a month, but due to a nationwide complaint from the private realty sector, who did not like government competition, the rent was more than doubled to \$350 a month. I immediately made a complaint to Pearl and told her how I was working 7 days a week. She incredulously told me, “Matthew, you are getting paid for

40 hours and that is all you have to work.” Well, I did not immediately cut back my hours, but the meeting was memorable, and I did learn to accept the rent increase.

Pearl was also concerned for the spouses and families of the staff. For example, when a certain maintenance worker was retiring, he did not select the option for his spouse to get a large portion of his retirement if he should die before her. He was more concerned about receiving a larger annuity for himself. Pearl interceded and strongly told him that he had to consider her future, and he reluctantly agreed to take her advice. 

Those “Things” With Feathers

By Karen E.H. Atwood, Volunteer

**“Hope” is the thing with feathers-
That perches in the soul-
And sings the tune without the words-
And never stops-at all-
And sweetest-in the Gale-is heard- ...**

— Emily Dickinson, 1862

Certainly, one “Gale” of our time is COVID-19. Many of us – some, for the very first time, are hearing Hope’s song and feeling inspired by the sounds and sights of the real “things with feathers” among us – the wild birds! COVID came and Nature called us outdoors — or away from our doors to our windows — and into the hobby of “birding”. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which collects bird-sighting records from experts as well as folks like you and me from around the globe (on www.ebird.org), held their “Global Big Day” on May 9th. They reported “a record-breaking 2.1 million bird observations, recording 6,479 species. An all-time high of 50,000 participants submitted more than 120,000

checklists, shattering the previous single-day...total by 30%.”* Lockdown made us look up, to the skies and to the feathered!

Birds, from the impossibly tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbird zipping among flowers, to the startlingly 4-foot-tall Great Blue Heron wading slowly along the water’s edge, fascinate. Whether we live in the city, the suburbs or the countryside, wild birds share our spaces, adding motion, color and sound.

We watch; we listen. We begin to sort one from another, understand their “conversations” — they sing to declare their territories, talk with their mates, call their young. Our eyes catch their colorful plumages, distinctive patterns and markings – or lack thereof — and we learn their *names*, no longer saying just “bird,” or “duck,” but “Cardinal,” “Ring-necked Duck,” and “Baltimore Oriole,” “Eastern Towhee,” “Scarlet Tanager”. We come to know their seasons of life, begin to

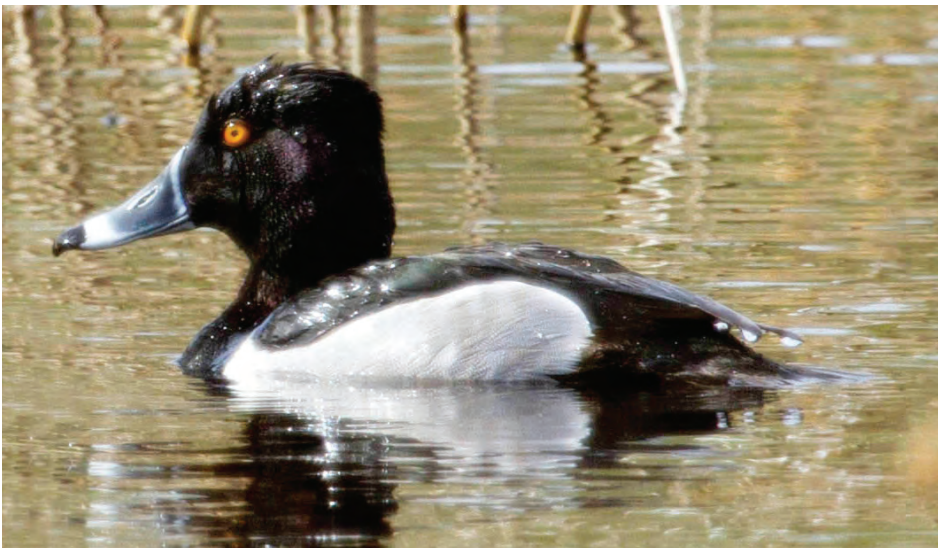
guess their ages by the feathers that they wear. We see their tail-wags and wing-flicks, their aerial displays – and know “who” they are, by their unique behaviors and voices, as well as their appearances. **We are birding!**

Patuxent Research Refuge, rich in habitat diversity with fields and forests, wetlands, lakes, streams and “edge habitats” that all offer great birding



Photo by Karen E.H. Atwood

Once the Visitor Center and Wildlife Images shop are again available, come explore our new birding and natural-history books, DVDs, games, educational materials, art, jewelry and more!



Ring-necked Duck

The Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), a diving duck, eats mollusks, invertebrates and underwater plants. Typically, we find them on Patuxent’s Cash Lake during fall-winter and in migration. Note this duck’s dark, distinctive, “peaked” head shape, white shoulder “spur,” and blue-gray, black-tipped bill with a white band, most prominent on adult males (the neck-ring is hard to see on living ducks).



Photo by USFWS/Tim Parker

Scarlet Tanager

A male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) in breeding plumage (females are olive-green). Scarlet Tanagers prefer undisturbed tracts of mature forest, visiting Patuxent from spring into fall migration. Look for them high in the tree canopy. Listen for their “chk-burrr” call notes and hoarse, robin-like song when not visible. They eat insects and insect larvae as well as berries (elderberry, mulberry, other). Like most insect-eaters, they may also eat suet.



Photo by Karen E.H. Atwood

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at nest

A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) with a hungry nestling waiting to be fed. The tiny, spider-silk-and-lichen-covered nests are the size of a large thimble; eggs are navy-bean-sized. Watch for these birds visiting tubular flowers (aiding some pollination) and eating insects, e.g., aphids, mosquitoes, gnats, fruit flies. The only known species of North American hummingbird to breed east of the Rockies, these nest at Patuxent, typically in deciduous trees, 10-40 feet up.

opportunities year-round. Wondering which bird species typically visit Patuxent, and when? Check: <https://go.usa.gov/xwbUY>. You can also check recent sightings online at www.ebird.org: Under “Explore,” enter “Prince George’s, Maryland,” in “Regions,” then look for Patuxent under “Hotspots”; set your dates of interest. Once the Visitor Center is available again (check: <https://go.usa.gov/xwb8E>), many refuge staff and volunteers can help identify birds seen. The refuge-supporting *Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Images Bookstore and Nature Shop* also sells field and folding guides as well as DVDs to help with identification, along with unique bird and natural-history-themed puzzles, cards, games, jewelry, art and gifts. No matter where you are, though, if you can access a window, a yard, a street, the sky overhead, you can look for birds!

[*https://mailchi.mp/cornell/news-release-birdwatchers-break-records-on-global-big-day-1317584](https://mailchi.mp/cornell/news-release-birdwatchers-break-records-on-global-big-day-1317584) 🐾



Photo by USFWS/Tim Parker

Female Northern Cardinal



Photo by USFWS/Tim Parker

Male Northern Cardinal

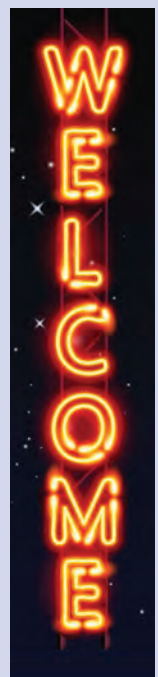
Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) are “sexually dimorphic”: Males and females look different (above). They eat seeds, fruit and insects, and rely on insects to feed their young: beetles, centipedes, cicadas, flies, moths, slugs and spiders, among others. Cardinals nest on the refuge and live here year-round; look for them in dense shrubby areas and “edge” habitats (and at our feeders!).

The Friends Welcome the New Leadership Team

By Richard Dolesh, Chair, FOP

The Friends of Patuxent would like to whole-heartedly welcome the new leadership team at both the Refuge and the Wildlife Research Center. The Friends are looking forward to working with the new research center director, Tom O’Connell; assistant director, Andrea Ostroff; refuge manager, Jennifer Greiner and Jason Cangelosi, visitor services manager. It may be a while till we can all welcome them in person, but until we can, our emails, newsletters, and zoom calls will have to suffice as we get to know each other. We are excited to share the new energy and enthusiasm for the Refuge and the work of the Research Center.

As Friends and volunteers may know, the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center has been administratively combined with the Leetown Science Center in West Virginia. The board of the Friends has had several discussions with director O’Connell welcoming him and offering our support for the mission of the combined centers. We have impressed upon him our desire to retain the name “Patuxent” in the newly designated research complex and we appreciate his willingness to involve us in the naming process as he has sought input from stakeholders and staff. We will keep Friends and volunteers apprised of progress in retaining Patuxent’s illustrious and historic identity as a new name for the combined centers is chosen.



Summer 2020 in the Hollingsworth Gallery

By Faith Leahy-Thielke, Patuxent Volunteer

Some cultures hold their thumbs for good luck, so in addition to crossing our fingers that Patuxent's Visitor Center is wide open, let's do both for insurance! This summer's scheduled exhibitors are gifted artists and photographers: fine artist, Marion Orchard in July; nature photographer, Bodi Nolan in August; and returning award-winner, Bill Reichhardt in September who generously offered to share space with an exhibitor whose month didn't materialize this spring.

Marion Orchard is a Maryland artist whose oil paintings of endangered species have been studied at Patuxent Research Refuge. The six she describes include a delightful rendering of two whooping cranes in flight – gliding low above the water. Others feature species from all over the United States including a Honey Creeper from Maui, a condor from California, wolves from Yellowstone and a local fox. Marion has worked many years as an illustrator for national companies. Additionally, commissions within her own business included designing jewelry for the 1996 Olympics and for government agencies.

She relates that – growing up, she enjoyed the adventure of being “immersed in nature.” And obviously, still has an awe of what she describes as

the “beauty, wonder and delicate interconnected balance of our earth.”

August's exhibitor, photographer, **Bodi Nolan**, will probably stay cool all month – since he's always lived on or near the Chesapeake Bay. He writes that as a child he explored “secluded creeks and animal trails” gaining an appreciation of “wildlife and tucked-away nooks” along the shore. He's still hiking, camping and kayaking as an adult, but carrying his camera through “rugged places” and beautiful landscapes in Europe and North America from Costa Rica to Canada. He is always conscious of the need to raise awareness of the importance of conservation of natural resources – not only in national parks and wildlife refuges, but in our backyards. Near his own home, he's “shepherded” a “multi-generational family of foxes – with vaccines, patience and persistence.

Nolan's images have been displayed at local art galleries (notably Gallery 564 in Severna Park) on the web, as well as magazines and newspapers. His photos of Yellowstone wolves were featured in USA Today in honor of the 25th anniversary of their reintroduction into the park. Often he seeks out “native animals and pristine landscapes” close to home to remind us of their value. Upcoming exhibits in-

clude the Maryland State House as well as Patuxent.

In September, we welcome back **Bill Reichhardt** whose beautiful photographs graced the gallery last April. Bill writes that he first developed an interest in photography – in addition to biology and environmental science as a child when his family was stationed around the world and he experienced many different cultures and environments. Now retired, he still enjoys travel with his wife, Sharon, and sailing on the Chesapeake. His sailing images have been reproduced in Spinsheet and Chesapeake Bay Magazine, in whose juried show he won “Best of the Bay,” and three of which were in Eastport Yacht Club's 2019 calendar. He describes his images as “capturing a story”, and especially with the nature shots, “capturing a moment of feeling that's never repeated.” Bill has lately approached his subjects with macro (close-up-photography) that finds the “extraordinary in the ordinary.” He writes in his “notebook” on line, that when photographing animals and birds, he tries for a clear shot of the eyes – to establish a connection – to glimpse the soul. Check out his website for a look at some of those raptor eyes! In his September exhibit Bill will feature birds, insides of flowers, woodland patterns and bees – all from Maryland environments. Can't wait for summer! 🐾

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



Why We Need Insect Biodiversity

Continued from page 7

rennials and annuals even though the later are usually “not a good source of nectar and pollen”.

Fear not there is lots of help out there:

<http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-list>

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/attracting_beneficial_insects_with_native_flowering_plants_\(e2973\).pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/attracting_beneficial_insects_with_native_flowering_plants_(e2973).pdf)

https://canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/plant_facts

https://www.canr.msu.edu/pollinators_and_pollination/uploads/files/protect-pollinatorsinlandscapes2019-web.pdf

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/reduced> risk and organophosphate alternative decisions conventional pesticides

Dr. Waterworth ended her lecture by reporting on experiments she has conducted on attracting beneficial pollinators to nursery stock.

If the name sounds familiar perhaps it is because you have had the privilege of working with Dr. Waterworth’s mother Pam at Patuxent. Pam Waterworth has been a Friend of Patuxent and volunteer for over 13 years. Her skills have been put to good use in the bookstore, staffing the front desk at North tract and removing invasive plants, especially garlic mustard.

Thank you Dr. Waterworth for this truly informative presentation that was timed just as we began to contemplate gardening for 2020. 🐾

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

- Richard Dolesh, *Chair*
- Lowell Adams, *Vice-chair*
- Sue Priftis, *Secretary*
- Natalie Woome, *Treasurer*
- Lindsey Baker, *Director*
- Ken Cohen, *Director*
- Courtney Koivisto, *Director*
- Cathy Kuehne, *Director*
- Matthew Perry, *Director*
- Clarence “Sparky” Sparks, *Director*
- Marcia Watson, *Director*

LIAISONS

- Diana Ogilvie,
- Patuxent Research Refuge Liaison
- Shannon Believ, 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⁽¹⁾, September 15, October 20⁽²⁾, November 17, December – No meeting. Dates, location and times are subject to change. ⁽¹⁾ Strategic plan review
⁽²⁾ Board meeting and annual members meeting

WE APPLAUD AND SALUTE OUR VOLUNTEERS

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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Laurel MD, 20708-4011

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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)
- 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)