



A quarterly newsletter for Volunteers and Friends of the Friends of Patuxent Research Refuge, Inc.

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

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July-Aug-Sept 2022

Friends of Patuxent Enlists Residents of Watershed in Planting Container Pollinator Gardens

by Rich Dolesh, Friends of Patuxent Board of Directors Chair
Photos by Felicia Evans

Many of the residents of Watershed, a new planned town-home community being built in Anne Arundel County on the northern boundary of Patuxent Research Refuge have expressed keen interest in activities and programs taking place at the nearby North Tract and at the refuge in general. Friends of Patuxent has had a continuing interest in engaging communities around the refuge to learn about the refuge, so it was a natural for us to seek ways we could partner with the residents

of Watershed. Planting mini-pollinator gardens in landscape containers proved to be an excellent way to connect with them.

In the spring of 2021, the Friends of Patuxent conducted a highly successful cooperative program with The Links, a national professional society of African American women, planting mini pollinator gardens in large tubs and containers at the National Wildlife Visitor Center to serve as a demonstration garden to show how homeowners and renters can plant such containerized pollinator gardens for their own patios and decks and driveways. Based on this success, the Friends saw a great opportunity to enlist the residents of Watershed in pollinator conservation by planting their own large planters with native perennial wildflowers to attract pollinators to their own patios and decks.

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Friends of Patuxent Annual Pollinator Festival

Liz Humes, Board Member, Friends of Patuxent

Saturday, September 24, 9am-1pm
North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, MD



Photo: United States Geological Survey

The ever-popular and family-friendly Pollinator Festival returns to the North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge on Saturday, September 24, 2022, 9am-1pm. This is a great event for people of all ages to learn more about the role of pollinators in nature. Activities for all ages include:

- Live monarch butterflies—caterpillars, cocoons, and adults. Adult

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A young resident of the Watershed Community puts the final touches on her family's container pollinator garden.

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Friends of Patuxent Annual Pollinator Festival

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Photo: C. 'Sparky' Sparks

Tagged adult monarch nectaring on New England Aster and Goldenrod flowers.

monarchs will be tagged and released to continue their migration south to Mexico.

- Childrens' games and educational activities—play the monarch migration game, fluff out milkweed seeds to be spread on the wind, take a hike with knowledgeable leaders, visit the displays about pollinating insects.
- Talk to scientists and biologists from the Eastern Ecological Science Center at Patuxent Research Refuge who are studying pollinators.
- See a live beehive in action—look into a beehive of European honeybees and talk with beekeepers who care for them.
- Visit the traveling Nature Shop from the National Wildlife Visitor Center of the Patuxent Research Refuge and take something home for yourself or as a gift for someone else.



Photo: United States Geological Survey

- Have fun and learn about the fascinating world of pollinators and their importance in our lives.

The Pollinator Festival will take place at the North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge, just off Rte 198 near Ft Meade at 230 Bald Eagle Drive, Laurel, MD, 20724. Visit the Friends of Patuxent website at www.friendsofpatuxent.org for directions and more information. This is an outdoor event, so please dress accordingly and bring a hat, water bottle, and insect repellent. Bring a friend, bring your family, or come by yourself for this fun and educational event.

Special Note to Friends of Patuxent members: Volunteers Needed!

Would you like to help out for this year's Pollinator Festival? We would



Photo: United States Geological Survey

really welcome your help. From setup to takedown, and everything in between, we need volunteers to help make the Festival a success. If you have a couple of hours to volunteer on the morning of Saturday, Sept 24, please contact FOP board member and event chair, Liz Humes at liz.humes@gmail.com 🐝

Bazaar Plant Table

PLEASE START HOUSEPLANT CUTTINGS NOW FOR DONATION TO THE PLANT TABLE AT THE HOLIDAY BAZAAR

NOVEMBER 5, 2022

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. We welcome and encourage all volunteers and Friends to submit items for the newsletter by emailing them 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 No.	Months	Deadline	Issue No.	Months	Deadline
1	Jan-Mar	December 1	3	Jul-Sept	June 1
2	Apr-Jun	March 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 15, or join online at <https://www.friendsofpatuxent.org>.

Friends of Patuxent Enlists Residents of Watershed in Planting Container Pollinator Gardens

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Elm Street Communities, the developers of Watershed, in cooperation with the Homeowners Association of Watershed, provided containers, planting soil, and native pollinator-friendly plants for the well-attended planting party on June 4, 2022 at Watershed's community center. Friends board members and volunteers Rich Dolesh and Liz Humes conducted a brief program about the importance of native pollinators in our landscape and the functions they provide in our local ecosystems. They emphasized that everyone can support pollinator conservation and can plant their own pollinator gardens no matter how small they are.

After a brief summary of the types of pollinator-friendly perennial wildflowers provided for planting, including plants planted by volunteers at the Bee Lab on Central Tract, attendees of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens, selected a variety of plants they wanted to plant in their mini-gardens and set to filling their seven-gallon containers with a base of stone for drainage and planting medium specially designed for containers.



Happy participants in the Friends of Patuxent-led pollinator garden planting program at Watershed are ready to take their new container pollinator gardens home.

There was a palpable energy and sharing of knowledge and skills by the participants. As the container gardens came together, there was also a shared sense of pride among the attendees as they compared their gardens to those of others.

The Friends of Patuxent thanks Elm Street Communities for their generous donations of containers, soil, and perennial wildflowers. The program was a huge success and proved to be a great way for the Friends of Patuxent to engage a nearby community whose residents know very little about the Refuge. These residents of Watershed who participated are now plugged in to learning more about



Even the smallest pollinator garden, such as these containers planted with native wildflowers, can help conserve our threatened pollinating species.

the resources of the Refuge and the research that takes place there, resources that they can now enjoy with their families and friends. Best of all, they now have a personal stake in pollinator conservation and by observing pollinators visiting their own pollinator gardens, will appreciate them even more on a daily basis.

Want to learn more about pollinators and how to plant your own pollinator container garden? Come to the Friends of Patuxent annual Pollinator Festival that returns to North Tract at Patuxent Research Refuge on September 24, 2022. Visit www.friendsof-patuxent.org to learn more about the 2022 Pollinator Festival. 🐝



The townhome community of Watershed on the northern boundary of the Patuxent Research Refuge built by Elm Street Communities has made a commitment to use only native species in all their landscape plantings in the community.

Flower Power!

by *The Bee Lab Collaborative*

Approximately 75% of our native plants have given up the old school pollination approach of wind in favor of luring animals, most often one of the 4000 species of bees in North America. Most plants have but a small selection of bee species doing their pollinating. At the simplest level, as bee populations and diversity decline, so too will the reproduction of the plants that depend on them.

To save the bees, one has to become immersed in their world. Where do they live, what plants do they use, how do you identify them, how do you count them, and, very simply, are they increasing or decreasing.

This is where the U.S. Geological Survey's Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Laboratory at the Eastern Ecological Science Center (EESC) comes in. The Native Bee Lab (for short) offers guidance and support for native bee-related projects. The lab has created a museum of free, public domain bee pictures for the nation's bee identifiers (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usgsbiml/>), developed survey techniques and programs for bees, and led to the creation of over 100 identification guides (<https://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?search=Apoidea#Identification>) and various technical manuals and presentations. For fun, follow the lab on Instagram, Facebook, and Tumblr at USGSBIML to see beautiful pictures of bees and their flowers accompanied with natural history stories. We also have a mailing list of over 100 individuals for planting activities and open houses, that all are welcome to join.

Since 2018, the Native Bee Lab has been located at the old USGS endangered species site at the EESC's Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland. The lab is enclosed by



Photo: Sam Droege

Inside the greenhouse there are many native plants that have been potted by volunteers and are ready to be planted into our gardens.



Photo: Sam Droege

Volunteers help plant the native plants, that have been grown in the greenhouses, into gardens around the Native Bee Lab.

an 8', 30-acre fence, making it the perfect deer free complex to raise plants. Within those 30 acres, there is a 5-acre gridded woodlot and approximately 100 outdoor pens that were formerly used for Sandhill and Whooping Cranes. Since that move, the EESC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have been working together to reduce the presence of invasive species throughout the site and on nearby USFWS controlled properties, as well as reestablish and enhance the rich existing native plant fauna (e.g., red osier, ironweed, whorled loosestrife, green-fringed orchid, joe pye weed, winged sumac, germander, etc.).

With the increase in space and resources, the Native Bee Lab staff have been able to conduct many studies looking at native plants, native bee relationships and native plant establishment. Some crane pens have been converted to single plant sites for pollinator visitation studies and similar plots have been created inside the woodlot. Comparisons of mulched, herbicided, and rototilled approaches to native plant establishment are used to educate the public on the best methods for establishing their own pollinator gardens. Some of these plots will also be established outside of the lab compound where a large deer population exists to examine their impact on native plants.

Our newest additions are two new hoop houses scavenged from the recently closed USGS Laboratory in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania where they served as fisheries tunnels. With the help of the Maintenance Team transporting the hoops, a generous donation by Linda Cooper for materials to convert them to hoop houses, and a fantastic crew of volunteers who built them and even more volunteers who come weekly to help plant and tend to the plants grown there, we have two operational greenhouses. This season we were able to grow over 300 differ-



Photo: Sydney Shumar

Sam Droege secures the last hoop of the new hoop house.

ent native plant species and amassed over 4,000 plant plugs.

We are happy to let researchers and students use some of these pens and facilities for their own projects or to take over aspects of what we have begun. For more information, please contact Sam Droege at sdroege@usgs.gov. We enjoy collaborating and our primary interest is to expand the conservation and understanding of

native bees through the larger ecological community.

Volunteer! The lab is powered by volunteers; we have amassed a wonderful group from all backgrounds to help in the planting and growing of native plants. The volume of work that has been achieved would not have been possible without people uniting under the common goal of increasing the number of native pollinators. 🐝

Visit us on Facebook and Twitter

<https://www.facebook.com/PatuxentResearchRefuge>

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

Functions and Names of Patuxent's Lakes and Ponds

(Part 2-North Tract)

by Matthew C. Perry, Emeritus Scientist, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (now Eastern Ecological Science Center)

When Patuxent Research Refuge was created in 1936, only a small area north of the Patuxent River in Anne Arundel County was part of the original 2700 acres of refuge land. This land, which was forested, and mostly swamp land, existed north of the Duvall Bridge between the Patuxent River and the chain-link fence that formed the southern boundary of Fort George G. Meade.

Other than the Patuxent River there were no open wetlands on this Anne Arundel section of the refuge. An early plan was generated in 1939 to convert a 12-acre forested area of this land to an impounded area. Uncleared diked ponds were developed at that time by impounding seepage swamps that were left uncleared of trees and shrubs. This type of wetland was constructed primarily to study wood ducks and develop techniques to increase their numbers. This proposal in Anne Arundel County never was initiated, probably due to the expense of the project or opposition to destroying a pristine natural swamp already valuable for wildlife.

The size of Patuxent changed dramatically in 1991 and 1992 when 8,100 acres of Fort Meade land, all in Anne Arundel County, were transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to be part of Patuxent Research Refuge, bringing acreage to 13,000. This land transfer was a great benefit to Patuxent and was aided by favorable assistance from our Maryland delegation to Congress.

Included in this land transfer were over 100 acres of created wetlands (marshes, ponds, and one lake). Some of



Photo: Neil Baldacchino

Assistant, Zack Cravens, and volunteer biologist, Frank McGilvrey, at Central Tract marsh studying wood ducks from nest box.

these wetlands in the North Tract drain into the Little Patuxent River. Most of these additional wetlands had control structures and are used for management but have not been extensively used for research areas.

Fort Meade was initially created as a soldier training area during World War I and the only known wetland at that time was the 2-acre Rieves Pond. It is believed that this pond was created around 1916 as an excavated area by a family living there before the Army took over the land. This small pond surrounded and shaded by trees appears very natural and provides habitat for some forested birds like wood ducks. The pond located in the center of the North Tract was also stocked

with fish and provided some recreation to soldiers and visitors of the North Tract.

In 1946, following World War II, Soldiers Lake and Rogue Harbor were created in the northeast part of the North Tract by impounding a ravine and creating 13 and 5 acres, respectively, of open water. Soldiers Lake was popular as a fishing area for many years by soldiers stationed at Fort Meade until the refuge acquired the land. In 1994, the Refuge changed the name from Soldiers Lake to Lake Allen. It was named for General David Allen, who was the commanding officer of Fort Meade and supported the transfer of the land to Patuxent. His support of Patuxent was not received

favorably by the US Army Corps of Engineers, which was trying to sell the land for development. Patuxent can be thankful to General Allen for his courage during a time of contentious negotiations.

In the 1950s, Patuxent scientists and facility staff created uncleared wetlands in forested areas of the Central Tract and learned the value of these areas for wood ducks. Although the trees die quickly from having their roots flooded, the dead tree remains standing a long time providing good roosting and nesting habitats for birds.

In the 1970s, Mr. William Harmeyer was wildlife manager of Fort Meade for the Army and was very interested in the wetland impoundment studies being conducted at Patuxent, mainly by Francis Uhler and Frank McGilvrey. He made many visits to the refuge and incorporated many of the practices that Patuxent was using on Fort Meade

land under his jurisdiction. Between 1976 and 1978 he created 5 uncleared impoundments in forested areas of Fort Meade that totaled 43 acres. These areas were named New Marsh, Bailey Marsh, Duck Pond, Borrow Marsh, and Drawdown Marsh. These shallow wetlands provided excellent nesting and brood habitat for wood ducks, and nest boxes were routinely monitored by staff headed by Frank McGilvrey. In 1981, a five-acre marsh was created along Mill Race Road by beaver that had dammed a small creek tributary to Patuxent River. The dead trees in this marsh attracted red-headed woodpeckers for several years.

In 1990, Blue Heron Pond was created as an excavated basin. After Patuxent obtained the North Tract land there was increased activity for research on this area. A major study activity at that time was the creation of wetland as mitigation for wetland destruction done in other non-refuge areas in central

Maryland. Wetlands were also created as mitigation for wetland destroyed by BGE when it increased the size of the powerline right-of-way on the North Tract. Merganser Pond (2 acres) was created as a wildlife viewing area for the public and included a nesting island for waterfowl. A created forested wetland (14 acres) and a green-tree impoundment (7 acres) were also created on adjacent land as additional mitigation sites.

The wetland areas on the North Tract created by the military and refuge staff during the last hundred years have created habitat for waterfowl and many other wetland species. The wetlands have been studied by research and Refuge staff, but also have provided excellent study sites for the public and scientists in other agencies. The wetlands also greatly increase the diversity of wildlife existing at Patuxent and make for a more pleasant viewing experience for the public. 🦋

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN!

Friends of 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 Eastern Ecological Science Center and the environmental education, outreach and recreational missions at the Patuxent Research Refuge.

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 Nature Shop 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 page 15, or go to <https://www.friendsofpatuxent.org> to join online.

Chan Robbins Memorial Bird Walk Held at South Tract

by Marcia Watson and Lowell Adams, Board Members, Friends of Patuxent

The Second Annual Chan Robbins Memorial Bird Walk was held at South Tract on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Despite the on-and-off rain showers, eight Friends of Patuxent members enjoyed a walk around the grounds near the National Wildlife Visitor Center. With temperatures only in the mid-60s, it was comfortable to bird with raincoats on! The group enjoyed a short stroll, observing the Refuge's birds and discussing the plans to honor Chan with a new trail and refurbished outdoor education pavilion.

The walk was led by Dr. Marcia Watson, who serves on the Board of Directors of the Friends and is the President of the Patuxent Bird Club. Dr. Lowell Adams, another Friends Board Member, compiled the list of birds heard and seen, and Liz Humes, another board member, took photos. Dr. Sandy Spencer, Refuge Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, provided deep knowledge of the Refuge's flora and fauna, which added greatly to everyone's enjoyment.

The annual bird walk, open only to Friends of Patuxent members, is intended to honor the many contributions of Dr. Chandler S. Robbins to our knowledge of birds and their habitat requirements. Starting in 1945, Chan worked as a biologist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (now Eastern Ecological Science Center at Patuxent); he officially retired in 2005 but continued to come in to the office and work on projects until shortly before his death in March 2017 at the age of 98.

Chan's career was studded with achievements that made him one of the world's preeminent ornithologists.



Biologist Sandy Spencer, at left, talks to the group about pond ecology. Others (left to right): Bekka Thompson, Cody Cardinal, Ellen Billiter, Lowell Adams, Nancy Gebhart, Liz Humes.



Spotting a Yellow-throated Warbler high in the trees.

He developed the protocol for the North American Breeding Bird Survey, which tracks the abundance of breeding birds, and the Breeding Bird Atlas, which maps where breeding species occur. Chan was the lead author of *A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America* (Golden, 1966), aka *The Golden Guide*, a book that is still

widely consulted for its innovative use of range maps and sonograms, graphic representations of bird songs. He is also known for his work on the deleterious effects of DDT on the success of avian breeding, and on the effects of forest fragmentation, a term used when a tract of hitherto unbroken forest is crossed by a road, power line, or some other manmade intrusion that causes gaps in the tree canopy. Chan's research showed that forest fragmentation negatively impacts many birds that breed in forests, by creating edge habitat that allows more predators to reach bird nests.

Chan's work with bird banding uncovered many basic facts about migration of diverse species around the world, especially neotropical migrants. Chan will forever be remembered for having banded a Laysan Albatross known as Wisdom; this bird, an adult first banded by Chan in 1956 and then re-banded in 2002, is still laying eggs at her nesting grounds on Midway Atoll; she is widely regarded as the oldest known



Photo: Lowell Adams

The damp but happy group (left to right): Marcia Watson, Liz Humes, Sandy Spencer, Ellen Billiter, Nancy Gebhart, Bekka Thompson, Cody Cardinal.

living bird in the world, at an estimated age of over 70 years old.

In memory of Chan’s work, the South Tract bird walk, held at the height of the breeding season in Maryland, had a special focus on breeding birds and the protocols that Chan developed to count them and determine where they breed. Chan was one of the first scientists to rely on what we now call “citizen scientists” or “community sci-

entists” – ordinary people who have received training in identifying birds by sight and sound – to conduct surveys of breeding birds. To honor this practice, the bird walk group practiced listening to birds singing their territorial songs, and learned some tips for identifying species by ear.

One of the highlights of the bird walk was hearing an Eastern Screech-Owl, the smallest owl that breeds in

our area. The group also observed Tree Swallows using nest boxes and a Green Heron that flew across the trail. Thirty-eight species were recorded by the group:

- Canada Goose
- Mourning Dove
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Great Blue Heron
- Green Heron
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tree Swallow
- Cedar Waxwing
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Carolina Wren
- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- Eastern Bluebird
- Wood Thrush
- American Robin
- House Finch
- American Goldfinch
- Chipping Sparrow
- Orchard Oriole
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Common Grackle
- Ovenbird
- Common Yellowthroat
- American Redstart
- Northern Parula
- Pine Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler
- Scarlet Tanager
- Northern Cardinal
- Blue Grosbeak
- Indigo Bunting

Photo: Liz Humes



The future Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Outdoor Education Center is nestled in the woods.

The walk also served as a preview of the new trail that is being developed by the Refuge in partnership with the Friends of Patuxent. This will be the first new trail since the Visitor Center opened in 1994, and will take visitors into an area of the Refuge not previously open to the public.

To be known as the Wisdom Trail in honor of Chan and the famous alba-

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Come Journey With Us!

by Karen H. Atwood/KEHA, Friends of Patuxent Board Member and Volunteer

You could ride a bike from Mexico to Canada and back again — a trek of over 10,000 miles across three countries — adventuring and dodging hazards, moment by moment in a marvelous, eye-opening, nine-month quest! Come to understand the plight of our pollinators as you bike with Sara Dykman, winner of the 2021 National Outdoor Book Award. Follow generations of those beautiful black-and-orange migratory marvels, Monarch butterflies, cycling through life in their own ways on this vast, North American continent. (*Bicycling with Butterflies*; Sara Dykman; Timber Press, Inc., 2021.) Buy it from us; help support your Refuge! Our profits help support Refuge and Science Center activities and missions. Learn about the threats these small, intrepid travelers increasingly face, and how you can help them and other important invertebrates and pollinators.



Photo: Karen H. Atwood

On Dykman's 10,000-mile+ bicycle journey she monitored milkweed plants and studied individual caterpillars and butterflies. We have resources in the bookstore to help you do some learning of your own.

Maybe you're more in the mood for a mini "stay-cation," these days? If you're the active type, you could travel into your own yard and transform it, becoming part of *Nature's Best Hope* (Douglas W. Tallamy; Timber Press, Inc., 2020) — a *New York Times* best seller! Crucial to the life that sustains humanity — the small plants and animals that help provide our oxygen, our food, reduce our pest populations, clean our water and our air — the contiguous habitats that our bird, pollinator and wildlife need to survive is endangered, especially in our urban and suburban, paved and turf-grassed landscapes. The author notes that "turfgrass has replaced diverse native

plant communities across the country on more than 40 million acres." If many of us could join together and turn our yards into mini "conservation corridors," we could create safe margins and habitat for the wildlife that sustains us. Learn how to turn from the monotony of mowing lawns; become part of the "homegrown national park," the author encourages! Tallamy is also the author of *Bringing Nature Home* and *The Nature of Oaks* (Yep; we carry the books in the shop. Please support your Refuge.)

Seeking a more sedentary voyage? Curl up in comfy chair; join a young girl
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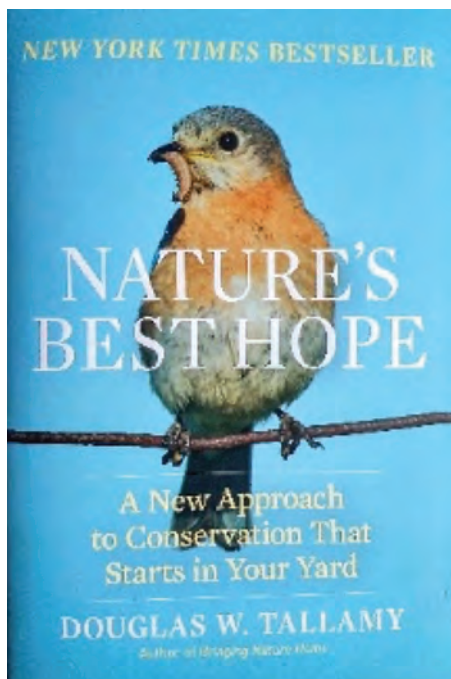


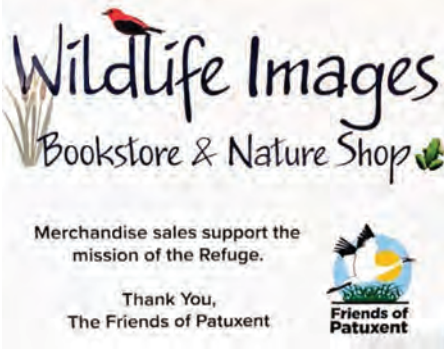
Photo: Karen H. Atwood

Shrinking lawn areas and adding native plants to our yards, from ground-covers to canopy, can help rebuild essential "ecosystem services". Become part of the "homegrown national park"!



Photo: Karen H. Atwood

A Butterfly Called Hope is just one of the unique children's books we carry in the Friends' Bookstore & Nature Shop.




Photos by Karen H. Atwood



Help us support your national wildlife refuge! Profits from your purchases help support the the Patuxent Research Refuge and Eastern Ecological Science Center activities and missions. Are you a Friends of Patuxent (FOP) Member? Please remind us when you shop so we may apply your discount. Want to gift or explore Friends' Membership? Visit our website: <https://friendsofpatuxent.org> . The Friends of Patuxent's Wildlife Images Bookstore & Nature Shop is now open Wednesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Closed on federal holidays, with the National Wildlife Visitor Center). We're excited to announce we **ALMOST** have enough volunteers to open on Tuesdays, too! Thinking about stepping up to volunteer, by yourself or with a friend or family member? Parent-teen pairs also welcome. Free, friendly training available! (Open/close; help customers; run the register; restock.)



Email store Manager Ann Carlson: wibookstore@friendsofpatuxent.org, or stop to chat in the National Wildlife Visitor Center: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop; Laurel, MD. Here's a sampling of the many resources, goods and "gear" available in the shop. For updates and FOP activities, visit the Friends' website: <https://friendsofpatuxent.org> 



Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar



The Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar committee is optimistic and hopes that the 2022 Holiday Bazaar will be held as planned on **Saturday, November 5 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:

- Coordinate volunteers for the event weekend
- Manage the Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar Facebook page

Bring in donations of new and gently used items for Baldy's Bargains – 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 1.

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

Post the Bazaar on your local **Nextdoor** site.

Mark your calendar and come to help

- Friday, November 4 - 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 5 - 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



Come Journey With Us!

Continued from page 10

named Hope and her mom: See them gather milkweed leaves to feed the odd little creature called “caterpillar” that the child found munching in the garden. Watch as they work to give it what it needs to become the Monarch it is destined to be. Learn with Hope as her mom helps her to understand that “her” butterfly needs to be set free. (***A Butterfly Called Hope***; Mary Alice Monroe; Arbordale Publishing, 2013.) This children’s book contains quality educational materials for young children with additional materials online. We have the English-language edition, and are attempting to acquire the book in its Spanish-language edition, as well.

More of a LIVE-event lover? We’re hoping to arrange a **BOOK-SIGNING** at the Refuge, so you can meet one of America’s master falconers, Rodney Stotts. Rodney is author of the book, ***Bird Brother: A Falconer’s***

Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife (Rodney Stotts/Kate Pipkin; Island Press, 2022), currently in stock in our shop. Stotts is a much-acclaimed, periodic, real-life presenter here at Patuxent Research Refuge. He enables us to be up-close-and-personal with the raptors he loves. During his presentations we delight in watching these beautiful birds perch powerfully, gracefully on his wrist as he teaches us about their lives and inspires us with his. In his book you’ll read about his rough path from the tough streets of Washington, D.C. in the late 1980’s, to a job with the Earth Conservation Corps, cleaning up the Anacostia River and helping bring Bald Eagles back. You’ll learn how he became passionate about conservation and fell in love with the fierceness and enduring tenacity of raptors. Experience with him a stumble on his life’s path, his prison sentence in 2002. Celebrate with him his renewed resolve, solid change in direction, his determined dedication to raptor conservation and to uplifting others now


struggling in difficult childhood environments like his own. Learn about becoming a falconer, too! Book-signing date to be announced. Follow this newsletter and the *Friends of Patuxent* website: <https://friendsofpatuxent.org>, where you can also become a Member. (Members, when you shop, please remind us of your membership so that we may apply your discount.) **Bookstore & Nature Shop hours: Currently, Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., in the National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop; Laurel, MD.** (*Pondering volunteering? If we have another volunteer or two to help, we can open the shop on Tuesdays, too, and be open all the same days that the Visitor Center is open!*) 



Photo: Ross Feldner

We hope to line up a book-signing at the Refuge with author Rodney Stotts! Follow this newsletter and the Friends of Patuxent’s website: <https://friendsofpatuxent.org> for updates.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022

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Summer 2022 in the Hollingsworth Gallery

by Faith Leahy-Thielke, Patuxent Volunteer

Summer may have been late, but it's definitely here now and brings a delightful group of exhibitors to our Hollingsworth Gallery. July's act will be tough to follow – we're welcoming four Baltimore Watercolor Society members, but Barbara Dahlberg, a renowned art quilter, has it covered. Bad pun. September Rewelcomes Kathleen Gardiner whose June show was derailed because of access road closures.

The Baltimore Watercolor Society (BWS) is a 137-year-old organization formed in the nineteenth century by a group of eight women. It flourishes today with almost 700 members – who belong as “Associates” or “Signature Artists.” The latter status is attained by “jurying” an applicant's four original art works.

The Society goal is to “promote professional excellence” in creating and developing art works in “aqueous media.” They sponsor a newsletter, shows, workshops, exhibits, demonstrations, and trips. They host the Mid-Atlantic Watercolor Exhibition yearly. Sharon Morell, Karen Schuster, Karen Norman, and Janet Arsenault, the four exhibiting in July, are all members of the Society's board and each will submit four paintings.

Society president, Sharon Morell, a native of Ohio, was born into a large family of artists, but a dual interest in art and the sciences led to a career in chemistry and biochemistry. She worked for 20 years at Hopkins and then, headed the department at UMBC. After retiring she was able to concentrate on a first love – watercolor. Birding and traveling with her husband matched her art with her love of nature. Her landscapes and gardens have been on display in the BWS's Mid-Atlantic Exhibitions.

Karen Schuster lives and paints in Columbia, Maryland. She has degrees in art and teaching. After retiring, she began to pursue watercolor seriously. She writes that she finds joy in this medium. Her work is usually realistic, but that she sometimes includes “edgy details.” Schuster often uses North American wildlife and chooses birds for this particular exhibit and describes each painting as “a little meditation.”


Karen Norman majored in studio art and color lithography, but has always been fascinated by the “subtleties and possibilities of watercolor.” She describes her work as “carefully thought out,” but the painting process invariably leads to changes. Norman's watercolors include gorgeous still lifes and landscapes. She is not only a member of the BWS, but also the Potomac Valley Watercolorists and the Olney Art Association (of which she is a past president). She continues to paint and teach to observe the “joy and creativity” of her students.

Janet Arsenault resides in the Catoctin Mountains near Frederick, MD. She has degrees from Virginia Commonwealth and Johns Hopkins. Retired from teaching art and special education, she's able to focus on a love of art – rekindled by an assignment in her last year of work. When a watercolor of hers won a Frederick holiday art contest, she decided to focus on that medium. Dividing her time between studio and plein air has produced wonderful landscapes. She is also interested in wildlife photography and has created a video for art instruction.

August will see the gorgeous “art quilts” of Barbara Dahlberg on display. Though a native of New Jersey, Dahlberg spent some of her adult life

in northwestern Pennsylvania where she learned to quilt. She presently resides in Crofton, Maryland where she continues to create lovely quilts that mix traditional and art design. As inspiration she favors the beauty of nature and the changing of seasons. Dahlberg experiments with color and texture – sometimes drawing ideas from the fabric itself. She teaches classes for beginners as well as old pros at “Timeless Treasures” in Crofton. Exhibits of her work this summer include not only Hollingsworth, but also in Arnold, Md (Quilts on the Bay) and Hampton, Va. (Simple Lines) – a show that will subsequently go on tour.

In September, Kathleen Ryan Gardiner's lovely watercolors will finally be on public display here. A Baltimore Watercolor Society member also, she'll be “soloing” this month. She also belongs to the American Watercolor Society, the Working Artist Forum, and the Maryland Federation of Art. She studied at SUNY (State University of New York) in Plattsburgh and earned a degree in education with minors in art and social studies. Gardiner has taught both in N.Y. and Maryland. She has continued teaching via zoom and studying in various workshops. An internationally-recognized watercolor artist, Gardiner had explored a variety of mediums, but watercolor remains her favorite. She has painted the lakes and mountains of New York, historic urban architecture and the Chesapeake Bay region. Her paintings of Assateague are part of Gardiner's latest body of work which includes landscapes, seascapes, and reflections. Light and shadow in her work “draw viewers into their story.”

This summer, six instead of three artists - we get a needed bonus. 

Chan Robbins Memorial Bird Walk Held at South Tract

Continued from page 9


tross, the trail will start near the west end of the Visitor Center parking lot near the picnic tables. It continues west between the ponds that serve to hold and filter used water from the Visitor Center.

The Wisdom Trail is being planned as a self-guided educational trail for adults and children, with several interactive activity stations, including a listening horn that will amplify birds singing in the area, a pair of binoculars mounted on a stand to allow spotting of bird images that will be strategically positioned in the trees (so there will always be something to look at!), and a sculpture of a snag (a dead tree), with silhouettes of birds that live along the trail.

The trail will enter the woods and will lead to an existing pavilion used for children's outdoor education programming. Later this year, the pavilion will

be renovated and dedicated as the Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Outdoor Education Center. The pavilion, tucked into the woods near ponds and a historic colonial-era road, will enable children to participate in nature study activities in a vibrant natural environment. New interpretive signage focused on Chan and his contributions will be installed at and near the pavilion, inviting visitors to "walk in Chan's footsteps."

Friends of Patuxent hopes that the Annual Bird Walk along the Wisdom Trail can be an important part of keeping Chan's memory alive, and that it becomes an established tradition.

The development of the Wisdom Trail and the pavilion project is being made possible by donations to the Friends' Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment Fund. Additional projects will be undertaken in the future to honor Chan. If you would like to help keep Chan's memory alive, you can make a donation by going to the [Friends of Patuxent website](#). A big Thank You to all past donors for supporting the current project. 

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FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD MEETINGS

Friends Board meetings are currently held by Zoom at 4 pm. Dates for Board meetings for 2022 are: January 18, March 15, May 17, July 19, September 20, October 18. (both Board and annual members meeting). Dates, locations, and times are subject to change.

JOIN TODAY!

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Friends of 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 Eastern Ecological Science Center and the environmental education, outreach and recreational missions at the Patuxent Research Refuge. 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 Nature Shop and other area refuge bookstores
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- Sense of accomplishment in providing many opportunities for wildlife-related recreation, education and research

(Application on page 15, or go to <https://friendsofpatuxent.org> to join online).