

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

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October-November-December 2018

Internless

By Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager

On August 25, 2018, Patuxent Research Refuge became internless for the first time in nearly 15 years. Abe Lopez, our exceptional, engaging, and tireless Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF) intern, completed his appointment here after 16 months, he quickly found a new home at Patterson Park Audubon Center in Baltimore to continue his passion for exposing urbanites to the joys of Nature. Abe was the last in a long line of outstanding interns we have had over the years. (MAJOR DISCLAIMER – the refuge will STILL have some interns through the generosity of Meade Natural Heritage Association (MNHA), allowing each of their trio of hunt control interns to spend approximately 16 hours a week on refuge projects. That is of tremendous benefit to the refuge, but their primary function is to support the hunt program that MNHA operates as our cooperating association.)

So how did we get in this internless fix, when we had been used to having at least one intern all the time, and several during parts of the year? Well, the reasons are many. Several years ago, a new interpretation of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s volunteer management policy resulted in an inability to pay interns a “living stipend.” Not a salary, but a stipend – usually well below minimum wage, but it helped them make ends meet during an otherwise unpaid experience.



Abe Lopez with Kestrel - one of our education birds

That new interpretation left us with more costly options, such as entering into cooperative agreements with the Student Conservation Association or

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Patuxent Volunteers Receive Governor’s Citation

By Bobbie Deegan

Excitement was in the air at the Board of Public Works meeting on August 24th, because the meeting opened with **Governor Larry Hogan recognizing** several of Patuxent Research Refuge’s most dedicated volunteers! **Rod Burley, Frank McGilvrey, and Claudia Papillo** have each donated more than 10,000 hours to Patuxent. To mark that outstanding achievement, Governor Hogan presented Rod, Frank and Claudia with a Governor’s Citation “on behalf of the citizens of this State in recognition of [your] commitment to Patuxent Research Refuge.” Rod, Frank and Claudia also received the personal thanks of State Comptroller Peter Franchot, and State Treasurer Nancy Kopp.

Staff and friends attending the meeting to show their support and grati-

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Internless

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other similar entities. Their overhead coupled with our shrinking budgets proved to be a bad match. Overhead is a fact of life, and I do not begrudge those organizations for what they charge for their role in providing excellent young conservationists – but the reality is with smaller budgets, being able to afford the going rates of doing business in such ways becomes an issue.

Another option available to us has been to use “OPM” – “Other People’s Money!” We have tapped into various programs where funding is provided by other entities, and we provide housing, supervision, and work! These include programs such as the Career Discovery Internship Program, with funding provided through the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Regional Office (RO); the National Wildlife Refuge Association’s “Tigers for Tigers” Program, where we provide free housing for a college student, and NWRA pays a stipend at the end of a successful 8-10 week experience; and of course, the previously mentioned HAF intern

program, again funded by the Regional Office (RO). We have also utilized the Director’s Fellowship Program, with FWS Headquarters paying the salary for a college student for a 10-12 week period.



Most of these programs involve competition for the intern funding, so there is no guarantee the refuge will receive a position. We have typically done fairly well, but sometimes the application process is a bit daunting, sometimes there is a desire to “spread the wealth” among other refuges, etc. So this option can leave us.....internless.

One last option we have taken advantage of is having a college student work for college credit – generally a

200-300 hour commitment to receive an appropriate number of credits, as determined by the college. This has provided the refuge with some outstanding students, but they disappear in a flash. Those hours get chewed up in a hurry, and then the student is gone. Nevertheless, it is an option we will likely try to utilize more in the future.

It seems this treatise has turned into a bit of a whine session, which was not my original intent. The fact of the matter is we sorely miss the day to day help interns provide. It is also quite discouraging to see avenues for giving young folks experience in the conservation field becoming harder to fund, support, or facilitate. There may actually be more options out there than 20 years ago, with all the programs I have mentioned (and I am sure there are others I have NOT mentioned) – but being able to afford them has become more difficult.

So - we latch on to whomever we can, whenever we can. We had two individuals in between appointments in different bureaus of DOI this spring, each coming here simply to volunteer for three to four weeks, until their new jobs started. We put them to work doing outreach, invasive species control, assisting with public programs, etc. Upon leaving, one said, “I wish my new job was going to be HALF this interesting!” Last summer, a high school student spent two weeks shadowing various refuge staff, declaring on his last day, “Now I know what I want to do with my life!”

We know the impact spending time and working on a refuge can have on anyone, particularly on youth. We also know how much help we need to even come close to being successful in our wildlife conservation mission. The conservation needs are many. The eagerness of youth is boundless. As long as both exist, we will find ways to bring them together in a mutually beneficial way. 🦋

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.

Fall Exhibits in the Hollingsworth Gallery

Faith Leahy-Thielke, Patuxent Volunteer

Fall should be lovely and amazing inside as well as outside this year, thanks to the wonderfully talented exhibitors. The Southern Comforters Quilt Guild of Bowie grace us with a “threepeat” in October; New Zealand-born landscape and nature photographer, Graeme Simpson in November; and interactive lecturer and photographer from Manchester, Maryland, Stephen McDaniel in December.

The Southern Comforters “group was formed in 1982 when 10 ladies met at “The Stitchery” in Bowie. At that first meeting, they approved a one dollar a meeting dues and submitted names for their new chapter to the National Quilt Association for approval. Since then, the group has flourished and expanded. They now meet twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays at Christian Community Presbyterian Church (CCPC) at 3120 Belair in Bowie. The doors open at seven p.m. welcoming guests and quilters of every skill level to enjoy “fellowship with those who share a common interest.” The guild promotes “appreciation of the rich heritage of quilting” with speakers, workshops and numerous other activities. In March of this year, the “Comforters” held “The Best Little Quilt Show in Maryland” – a two day (Saturday and Sunday) event held at Samuel Ogle Middle School. The show featured “member quilts, a silent auction, appraisals, demonstrations, raffle baskets (a ticket with which visitors were gifted when they brought a canned good for the Bowie Food Pantry), and more than a dozen merchants” displays. Last year at the Maryland State Fair, the Bowie group won first place Large Piece Quilt and Best Traditional Quilt ribbons. Guild members used a variation of Sue Garman’s “Stars for a New Day” pattern to piece the quilt and Wendy Allen “quilted” it.

Contact person and “curator” for the Guild’s October exhibit at Hollingsworth is Barbara Dahlberg. She writes that the focus this fall will be “nature-themed” quilts – a subject with which she herself is well-acquainted. Her traditional and “art” quilts are “often inspired by the beauty of nature.” She also teaches workshops and classes for adults and children. Barbara and many members will be sharing their work with us in their exhibit.

Born in New Zealand, Greenbelt resident, Graeme B. Simpson, has photographed everything from natural disasters to celebrities (usually not the same thing) and has operated businesses and held significant positions in both his native country and Australia. Through his photography business, he’s worked for the New Zealand government’s National Publicity Studios – documenting landscapes and wildlife. He describes one career highlight with them as “establishing a conservation photography program.” A fascinating job he performed in Australia was “production, salvage and printing of 700 historic glass negatives of World War I soldiers. The effort was sponsored by TV 7 Australia for a history library.

Travel in America (“often in the company of landscape and wildlife photographers”) has taken him to many wilderness areas – often to his companions’ favorite state and national parks. Living in Greenbelt has made Patuxent’s North Tract and the South’s Visitors Center frequent destinations. Simpson’s November exhibit reflects his interest in “specialist collections” and this time – it’s Patuxent! – “Wilderness of the Patuxent.” His photographs provide “insight” to the nature and wildlife on the Refuge’s trails. He writes that he was surprised at the size, diverse activities – research, educational and recreational of a land so close to

densely populated areas. “Being asked to exhibit my photographs at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge’s Hollingsworth Gallery gave me an opportunity to share my photos of walking its beautiful areas.” Simpson will donate all exhibit photos to the Friends of the Patuxent. Wow – and thank you in advance.

McDaniel Photography is the business of Steve and Angie McDaniel of Manchester (a farming community in northern Carroll County near the Pennsylvania line). Steven McDaniel is an expert close-up photographer and a popular speaker – not given to “boring lectures.” His presentations are “interactive, fun events.” On their website’s “Fine Art Gallery,” McDaniel has a number of glorious photographs under the categories of “Landscape and Scenics,” “Upclose and Personal,” and “Pollinators: Birds, Bees and Butterflies.” All are available to order on line in a variety of sizes, papers, prints, photos and frames. Honeybees and beekeepers are a specialty and “some of our most published images.” McDaniel describes his presentations on them as those for general audiences like “Inside the World of the Honey Bee,” “Love is in the Air,” “Wildflowers of Maryland,” and “The Magic of Hawai’i.” More detailed talks for beekeepers include: “Keeping Your Bees Alive,” “Catching the Impossible Swarm,” “Close-up Honey Bee Photography,” and “Producing Practically Perfect Honey and Beeswax.”

We’re looking forward to all of the exhibitors. 🐦



Female Interns! Egad!

Frank McGilvrey, Volunteer/Biologist

There were 20 of us in the Wildlife Management Master's program at Oregon State University in 1955, all males. The undergraduate program in fish and wildlife management had about 100 students, all male except for three girls, and everyone knew why they were there. With those odds, they had no problem getting a husband. For the first 15 years in refuges, ecological services and research in the Fish and Wildlife Service, I never knew or heard of a female biologist. Between 1960 and 1973 at first Santee NWF in South Carolina and then at Patuxent, I had three interns each summer. All males. We spent the summers wading in marsh and swamp, often up to our waist, in the heat and bugs, and, in South Carolina, cottonmouth moccasins. I didn't do the hiring, but the possibility of females never crossed my mind. In the early 1970s, I visited 40 refuges in the east to review their wood duck nest box programs. I came across only one female biologist. Our very own Nell Baldachino! She had recently completed a master's program in wildlife after being the first female to break through the glass ceiling at Virginia Tech.

In 1975, I went into the Central Office. The Service had begun an active program to hire females, and more and more of them came into Washington in the next 20 years. But these were pencil pushers. I had lost contact with field stations, so did not know how many females were doing dirty work at that level. I should have known what was coming. My daughter had been a mule-skinner on the C and O Canal, and went on to be the youngest Regional Division Chief in the Park Service.

I came back to Patuxent in 1996 as a volunteer after retirement from the Service. I organized two activities; one a weekly waterbird survey of all

impoundments on the refuge, and a resident waterfowl nesting monitoring program. Becky Wood was the North Tract biologist and we became good friends. In the spring of 1997, I was notified that I would have three interns, ALL FEMALES! I was shocked. They were going to carry an 8 foot ladder out into the swamp to check wood duck nest boxes, and haul a canoe around to check waterfowl nesting islands! Becky tried to calm me down and told me not to scare them off the first week. So, I resolved to give it my best shot. I had been a drill sergeant during the Korean War. Recruits were draftee males. The idea that females could carry rifles and full field packs on 5 mile hikes in August heat was unthinkable. In working with male interns, I modified my behavior somewhat, no demanding 20 pushups. I realized I would need to

do some modifications with females. I thought I was doing pretty well; no complaints. Then a male intern said to me, "Frank if I talked to these girls like you do they would hand me my head!" I could only mumble, "they understand me".

Over the next 20 years, I had between two and four interns each spring and summer. I can count on one hand the number of females that could not or would not do the work. One of my favorites was with me for two years and would say to me, "I'm just a girl!" and proceed to prove to me she could do anything a male could do, and more often than not, better.

The thing I have enjoyed most at Patuxent, has been working with young people, both female and male. They have made me feel more optimistic about the future. 🐻

Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 3, 2018

9 AM to 3 PM

National Wildlife Visitor Center

VENDORS WANTED

- \$10+15% of sales for a table/space
- additional table/space - \$15
- All event proceeds go to support Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.



If you are interested in being a vendor or know someone that would be interested in being a vendor contact

Mary Ann Hartnett at 2ufrommah@gmail.com

Patuxent Beaver

Frank McGilvrey, Volunteer biologist

On an early August morning in 1973, I was conducting a waterfowl survey. When I stopped at Lake Redington, I saw what appeared to be a pile of sticks. After staring at it for a while, it dawned on me, it was a beaver lodge! Excessive trapping and clearing of bottomland forests came close to exterminating the beaver. After years of protection and regrowth of trees along the rivers, beaver started working their way out of their mountain sanctuary. After 150 years, they had returned to central Maryland.

I left Patuxent the next month to go back to school. I returned to the refuge in 1996. The original lodge was, and still is, there; although it has been abandoned within the past two years. Over the intervening years, the population had exploded. I counted over 30 lodges, which translates into about 300 beaver. Almost every man-made impoundment had a lodge, and several of the larger ones had two or three. In addition, beaver had constructed at least a dozen dams on water courses on North Tract and a half-dozen on Central Tract.

The problem with beaver is that they will not tolerate running water; deeper is better. So, they build dams on top of our water control structures, flooding roads and drowning waterfowl nesting islands. Removing the dams is a time-consuming and never ending job. Within 24 to 48 hours, there is usually no sign that any debris was removed.

Desperate measures are sometimes required, and nuisance animals are removed. But even this is only a temporary measure. Young beaver are required to leave their birth lodge when they turn two and find a home of their own. You can imagine their joy when they find an unoccupied impoundment and can set to work.

Sometimes our efforts to help wildlife are too successful! 



Peregrine Falcon Trapping and Research at Patuxent

by Matthew C. Perry

The peregrine falcon was a species of major concern in October 1968 when Dr. Lucille Stickel, Associate Director of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, sent two researchers to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in coastal Virginia to capture migrating falcons. The researchers involved with the activity were contaminant specialists, Richard Porter and Stanley Wiemeyer. Assisting them in the capture were James Ruos, an experienced falconer and biologist working in the Migratory Bird Population Station at Patuxent, and John Maestrelli, an accomplished field biologist in the contaminant program.

The long-term goal was to establish a breeding program at Patuxent to evaluate the effects of persistent pesticides on this species. The objective of the mission to Chincoteague was to capture three pairs of immature



John Maestrelli and Ronnie Shell holding trapped peregrine falcons at Assateague Island, Chincoteague NWR during October 1968.



Dr. Richard Porter with a bow net with a recently captured peregrine falcon on Assateague Island, VA, 1968.

falcons on “passage,” which refers to falcons on migration, and in this case the falcons were traveling south. If the falcons bred in captivity, then their offspring could be used in studies to test the effect of various concentration levels of contaminants on the reproduction of the birds. At the time of the study, the contaminant of major focus was the persistent organo-chlorine pesticide DDT. In studies with other species at Patuxent this chemical had been linked with reproductive failure by altering the ability of bird to deposit calcium for egg development. This finding was published in 1969.

A bow net in the sand was used for the capture, which is a reliable technique with birds that can be attracted to a specific site. In the case of migratory falcons it was common to use a domestic pigeon that was tethered near or over the bow net trap. Migrating falcons see the bird in distress from a distance and immediately swoop down to attack the pigeon. The “trigger” on the trap is pulled remotely with a string (or now with a transmitter), which makes the net close over the falcon. Some falcons on this study were captured by hand with no net. In this process the biologist is partially buried in the sand while holding a pigeon in one hand by its legs or on a tether. When a falcon attacks the pigeon decoy, the biologist quickly grabs the falcon with the other hand. A third technique used in this study was to place a harness on a pigeon that has nooses of monofilament fishing line on the top of the harness (called bal-chatri trapping). The falcon after attacking the pigeon gets its talons caught in the nooses and the biologists retrieve the pigeon and falcon with a long string attached to the harness.

During the October 1968 trips to Assateague Island, which is part of the Chincoteague NWR complex, these capture techniques were successful with the research team capturing three pairs of peregrine falcons. The refuge staff, including manager, J. C. Apple, provided necessary permits and at least one assistant manager, Ronnie Shell, actually assisted with the study. The captured birds were then quickly transported to Patuxent and released into new pens, which had been constructed for the study.

Although one egg was produced by the captive falcons, the falcon program was not successful, unfortunately, and the birds remained fairly wild while in captivity. The study was eventually terminated in the mid-1970s and plans were made to donate the birds to another facility. The birds were crated and sent by airplane to a raptor rehabilitation center in Colorado. The raptor specialists, who received the birds, were very critical concerning the condition of the feathers, beaks, and talons of the falcons on arrival. Dr. Stickel tried to explain these conditions as not important for a study of captive birds in a pen, but agreeing that the birds could not be returned to the wild without molting and the replacement of damaged feathers with new ones. The resulting discussion of the birds' condition in captivity resulted in obtaining a new permanent veterinarian on the Patuxent staff dealing with animal welfare.

The disappointing results with the breeding program were probably due to the fact that the birds were wild caught and did not adapt to captivity. Patuxent scientists were able to breed the larger bald eagle in captivity, but that species was also considered inappropriate for contaminant studies and the eagles were placed in new pens as part of the endangered species propagation program. The contaminant program was most successful with breeding American kestrels and screech owls in high numbers, and studies with these two species



Jim Ruos and Dick Porter banding Peregrine falcons at Assateague Island, Chincoteague NWR in October 1968.

produced great amounts of data in regard to the effect of pesticides on raptors. In 1969, Patuxent scientists published findings linking DDE (a me-

tabolite of DDT) to egg-shell thinning, which led to the ban of DDT in 1972 and other persistent pesticides shortly thereafter. 🐦

Calling for Your Articles and Photos Please

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

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



Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 3, 2018
9AM to 3PM
National Wildlife Visitor Center

DONATE: Donations for Baldy's Bargains Thrift Shop may be left at the Visitor Center until October 22. Clean out that closet and donate what you can't use to Friends of Patuxent. Don't forget to fill out a donation form. Please - NO posters, flat art, or bed linens. Books, CDs, and DVDs are always popular.

VENDORS: We're still looking for vendors. Spaces available in the conference room at \$10/space plus 15% of sales. We provide a table and chairs. If you would like to be a vendor or know someone who would, contact Mary Ann Hartnett at 2ufrommah@gmail.com or leave a message at 301-497-5789.

BAKE: Don't forget the **Bake Sale**. Donations for the Bake Sale may be left at the Visitor Center starting Friday, November 2. Cookies, bars, snack mix, quick breads, and coffee cakes are most popular - doesn't have to be fancy, just homemade and delicious.

VOLUNTEER: Come and join us as a volunteer on Friday, November 2 as we get set up for the Bazaar and on Saturday, November 3. We have a lot of fun and there are plenty of chances to shop. To volunteer: contact Jeanne Latham at jelatham@verizon.net. Refuge volunteers and Friends of Patuxent members welcome.

SHOP: Be sure to come by Saturday, November 3 to start your holiday shopping. We will have more than 25 vendors selling everything from birdseed to fine jewelry. You're sure to find that unique gift for that special someone. This is the perfect time to introduce your friends to the Refuge.

Lunch available at the Crane Café
MEET LIVE ANIMALS
DOOR PRIZES every hour
TRAM RIDES (*weather permitting*)



Around the Refuge

Photos by Matt Beziat



Halloween Pennant (North Tract)



Red Admiral (North Tract)



Coastal Sweet Pepperbush (North Tract)



Crimson Eyed Rosemallow (North Tract)



Black Elderberry (South Tract)



Carolina Horsenettle (South Tract)



Eastern Eyed Click Beetle (South Tract)



Blue Dasher (South Tract)



Great Blue Heron (South Tract)

Monkey Business at Patuxent

by Matthew C. Perry

“Jay, what kind of monkeys are they?” That was the very strange question asked by Nancy Mullis on a spring morning in 1973 on a bird walk at Patuxent along River Road that parallels the Patuxent River in Prince George’s County. Jay Sheppard, a biologist in the Bird Banding Lab, was an experienced birder and was leading the trip for some of his colleagues. The unexpected sight of two monkeys in the Patuxent woods startled the group, but they were even more surprised when one monkey climbed onto Ben Pagac’s car and started pulling on the windshield wipers. The other went inside Jay’s camper and began shaking pancake mix all over the interior of the camper. (The group had eaten pancakes in the woods before starting their Saturday morning bird walk.)

Knowing something was out of the ordinary, Jay sent word to the concerned offices and soon some men arrived on the scene with big landing nets and some bananas. The men were from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and were conducting disease experiments in Coburn Laboratory on the refuge property. How these two monkeys escaped captivity was unknown, but the technicians wearing white coveralls and boots were eager to return them to Coburn Lab. The look on the faces of the happy monkeys when they saw the technicians walking down the road was clearly one of recognition and terror.

One monkey was netted when it approached for an offered banana. The other monkey was only able to be caught with the net when the caretaker lit a cigarette, took a drag, crouched down, and then offered the cigarette to the monkey. It wearily came to his outstretched hand and stretched its neck to take a puff. And down came the net!! Some folks at Patuxent suspected that NIH was likely doing cancer/nicotine research at the monkey building, or possibly the captive monkeys had been used in previous experiments with nicotine.



Windshield wipers of Ben Pagac’s Karman Ghia being inspected by escaped monkey.



Chimpanzee on Ben Pagac’s Karman Ghia looking for food inside car.

The major experiments at Coburn dealt with a very rare disease that humans in New Guinea were contracting from unknown causes. The people getting the disease were indigenous aborigines in the tribe referred to as the “Fore.” In New Guinea in the late 1950s, Dr. Carleton Gajdusek had become interested in the disease and was working tirelessly to determine the cause. He lived among the natives and with their assistance established a hospital. He observed that elderly females and the young were most commonly afflicted and that first signs were trembling referred to as “kuru” in the native language. This would become the name of this terrifying disease. Gajdusek considered all causes including genetics, infections, and toxins. Most importantly among his observations was that he thought there was a correlation with diet. In the United States his supervisor was overseeing the analyses of human brains being sent by Gajdusek, and results indicated that

there was a deterioration of brain cells in persons deceased from kuru.

Frustrated that he could not determine the cause of the disease Gajdusek reached out to Dr. Clarence Gibbs, a colleague at NIH. Dr. Gibbs established a research area in Coburn Laboratory at Patuxent and immediately inoculated monkeys (mainly chimpanzees *Pan troglodytes*, and rhesus macaques, *Macaca mulatta*) with material from the brain of the diseased native humans. Twenty-one months later in 1965, Gibbs saw the first signs of trembling in his chimpanzee called Daisy. This was eight years after Gajdusek had first seen kuru in New Guinea. It was such an important observation that Dr. Gajdusek immediately came to Patuxent from New Guinea. It now was obvious that the disease was caused by an agent (possibly a virus) in the brain and was transmitted when the native cannibals ate the brains of their deceased relatives.

The agent causing the disease was thought to be a latent virus, because it took years for the symptoms to manifest, and therefore the direct correlation with the unusual ritual tradition was not readily obvious. The so-called latent virus was actually a prion protein and has received more attention in recent decades due to scrapie in sheep, mad cow disease, and several diseases of humans associated with the brain. Kuru ended as a disease in New Guinea several decades after cannibalism ended in the late 1950s.

Dr. Carleton Gajdusek received a Nobel Prize in 1976 for his research in New Guinea and his collaboration with Dr. Gibbs at Patuxent. Staff at Patuxent can be proud that their institution was associated with NIH and take pride in the solving of the kuru mystery and the Nobel Prize awarded to a collaborating scientist.

The research on the monkeys continued at Coburn Lab to the mid-1970s.

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Patuxent Volunteers Receive Governor's Citation

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tude for these outstanding volunteers were Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager; Diana Ogilvie, Volunteer Coordinator; Rich Dolesh, Friends of Patuxent Chair; Jeanne Latham, Friends of Patuxent Vice Chair; and Charlie Deegan, Friends of Patuxent Board member.

These volunteers have used the hours they've contributed to the refuge to provide a broad range of services. Specifically:

Frank McGilvrey - more than 26,000 hours

A retired Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, Frank started volunteering at the refuge in 1996.

During his volunteer time at the refuge, he has participated in conducting weekly waterfowl surveys of all impoundments and parts of the rivers flowing through the refuge, monitoring

140 wood duck nest boxes and 65 islands for nesting wood ducks, hooded mergansers, Canada geese, mallards and black ducks from early March to mid-June; sexing and aging waterfowl shot on the refuge at the hunter control station; interacting with the public at the captive wood ducks station during visitor events; monitoring song bird nest boxes; removing human "detritus," such as fences, deer exclosures, and other human trash; removing invasive plants, including tree-of-heaven, Bradford pear and autumn olive; preparing reports and articles for the volunteer newsletter on activities; clearing trails for access to impoundments; and conducting summer drawdowns of impoundments to encourage annual wetland plants attractive to waterfowl.

Rod Burley - more than 12,000 hours

Rod started volunteering in 1993. He has been involved in visitor information, interpretation and education, event support, and trail monitoring. Rod leads popular public programs, such as herp surveys, bird walks, and

owl prowls; has coordinated woodcock and whip-poor-will surveys, frog and toad call surveys, and coordinates the Christmas Bird count on the North Tract of the refuge; has checked fish traps and bluebird, wood duck and kestrel nest boxes; helped with outdoor maintenance, including clearing trails, mending gates, weeding gardens, mowing, and controlling invasives; and assisted with data collection for the hunter control station.

Claudia Papillo - more than 10,000 hours

Claudia started volunteering in 2004, and she is so dedicated that she spends her entire weekend – 16-18 hours a week, 49 weeks a year – serving at the Visitor Center front information desk.

She helps orient new volunteers to the refuge when they spend a 4-hour initial observation shift with her at the South tract. Claudia has represented the refuge at community outreach events, such as the National Night Out, and she coordinates the front desk during special events, like the Birthday Bash and the Wildlife Festival. She has assisted with mass mailings and fishing permits, and helps with preparations for children's crafts for special events and public programs.

Claudia is a superb organizer and keeps all things in their proper places. She is always willing to help with whatever is needed, including the important annual updates to the Guardians of the Refuge volunteer recognition plaques.

As you can tell from the range of activities performed by these three volunteers, there is something for everybody at the refuge. No matter what your volunteer interest, there is a way you can contribute. Come join us! Contact Volunteer Coordinator Diana Ogilvie at 301-497-5565, or email her at diana_ogilvie@fws.gov. Diana is available Sundays – Thursdays, 8 am – 4:30 pm. 🐦



(left to right) State Treasurer Nancy Kopp, Governor Larry Hogan. Claudia Papillo, Rod Burley, Frank McGilvrey and Comptroller Peter Franchot.

Around the Refuge

Photos by Anthony VanSchoor



Spotted Turtle



Hickory Horned Devil or Regal Moth Caterpillar



Hooded Warbler



Prothonotary Warbler



Albino Dark-eyed Junco

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



Join the Friends of Patuxent and Patuxent Research Refuge at the National Wildlife Visitor Center to see a live wolf from Ironwood Wolves on Saturday, October 20th, 2018.



There are three different showings (10 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:00 PM). Each showing is one hour long. Visitors ages 13 & up will require a ticket that costs \$10. Visitors ages 12 & under will require a ticket that costs \$5.

The one hour program includes a discussion of family life, habitat, diet, and myths and facts about wolves. Learn about the important role that wolves play in the ecosystem and why we should respect them rather than fear them.

Ironwood Wolves will be bringing their wolf ambassador, Luther.

<http://www.ironwoodwolves.com/our-ambassadors.html>

Born in 2018, Luther is a black-phased wolf and the newest addition to the Ironwood Wolves program.

After the program, feel free to explore the National Wildlife Visitor Center wolf exhibit and other displays. In addition, enjoy Family Fun: Wonderful Wolves, in which you can learn more about wolves with hands-on activities, games and crafts. Great for all ages. Family Fun is free.

For more information and tickets, please visit
LiveWolfatPatuxentResearchRefuge.eventbrite.com

Monkey Business at Patuxent

Continued from page 10

When I arrived at Patuxent in 1971, I lived in the government house across the street from Coburn Lab. When meeting with the Patuxent Director, Dr. Eugene Dustman, for the first time he said, "I hope the noise of the monkeys don't keep you up at night." They did not and their howling was actually a pleasant addition to the wildlife sounds of the refuge. I did keep a distance from the monkeys, however, as all employees knew of the dangerous nature of the research being conducted. Eventually the research ended, the monkeys were removed, and the facility was completely decontaminated of any disease microorganisms.



Escaped monkey on road before capture with nets.

My thanks to Mr. Ben Pagac and Mr. Jay Sheppard for initial story of the escaped monkeys.

References below for more detailed information of the disease:

Eron, Carol. 1981. *The virus that ate cannibals*. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., New York, NY. 193pp.

Max, Daniel. 2006. *The Family That Couldn't Sleep*. Random House Publishing, New York, NY. 299pp.

Rhodes, Richard. 1997. *Deadly feasts: tracking the secrets of a terrifying new plague*. Simon and Schuster, New York, NY. 259pp.

Yam, Philip. 2003. *The Pathological Protein: Mad Cow, Chronic Wasting, and Other Deadly Prion Diseases*, Copernicus Books, New York, NY 284pp. 

Wildlife Images Bookstore

Let's Take A Hike!

By Evelyn Kirby, bookstore volunteer

When is the perfect time to get outdoors for a nice long weekend hike? Right now, in the crisp cool month of October. And the Wildlife Images Bookstore has everything you need to make your walk a fun learning experience.

Can't decide where to go? Choose one of several books describing a variety of day trips around the Washington DC, Baltimore, and Delaware area. Several choices are pictured here.

After you decide where to go, it's time to gather your supplies.

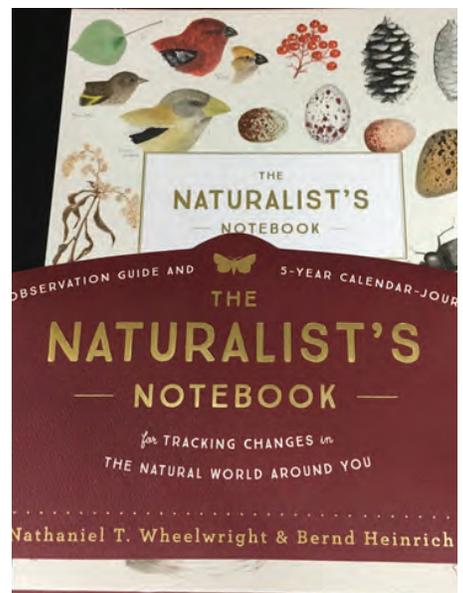
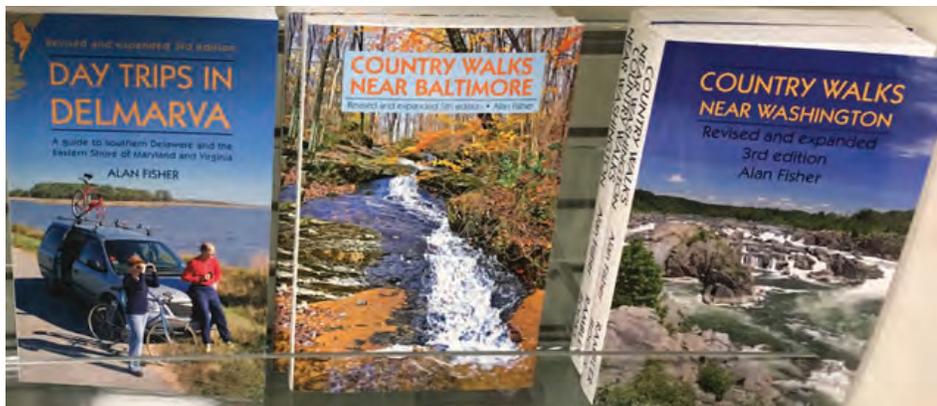
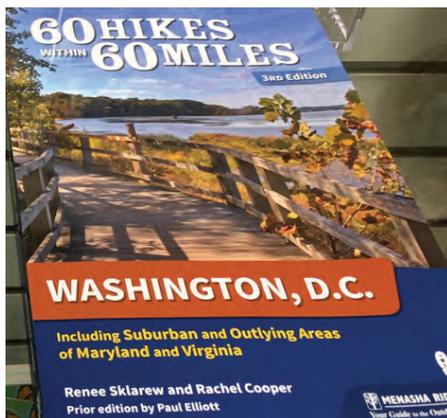
If you want to go up and down hills you might need a walking stick. The bookstore has the right size for any height;

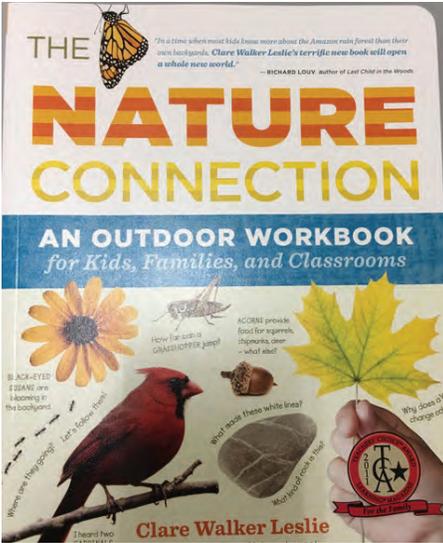
including kid sized ones – some with compasses.

As you hike, children will discover birds in the distance with Junior Adventures 4x30 binoculars and the close up world of bugs and other small things with a magnifying glass.

Pick from our journals and books to record your thoughts and draw sketches of what you see. Examples are, **The Naturalist's Notebook**, for tracing changes in the natural world around you.

There is **Keeping a Nature Journal**. "You can experience a spirited yet tranquil exploration of the living world by creating your own nature journal. . . Simple methods for capturing what





you see in sketches and words will inspire you to make journaling a part of your daily life “

Keep children’s interest going all year long with **The Nature Connection**. It is “full of fun ideas for what to look for and do every month of the year and plenty of room to record what you find.”

There are also activity books to oc-



cupy the smaller children during the drive to the trailhead.

And to complete your supplies, pick up No-Bite-Me all natural insect repellent, caps for adults and hats for children, and sweat shirts to ward off the chill at sunset.

Enjoy your hike and the wonderful experiences you’ll have along the trail. 🐦

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

- Richard Dolesh, *Chair*
- Jeanne Latham, *Vice-Chair*
- Clarence “Sparky” Sparks, *Secretary*
- Robert Schroeder, *Treasurer*
- Lowell Adams, *Director*
- Ken Cohen, *Director*
- Charles Deegan, *Director*
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- 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 on Jan. 16, 2018; Feb. 20, 2018; Mar. 20, 2018; Apr. 17, 2018; May 15, 2018; Jun. 19, 2018; Jul. 17, 2018; and Sep. 18, 2018. Dates, location and times are subject to change.

JOIN TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

(E-mail address will not be sold or shared. It will be used for Friends and Refuge announcements only.)

Phone: (opt.) _____ New Renewal

- Individual (\$25/yr), gift: FOP bookmark (or other) Family (\$35/yr), gift: FOP decal (or other)
- Contributor (\$75/yr), gift: History of Patuxent DVD (or other) Sponsor (\$250/yr), gift: FOP hat (or other)
- Life (\$500), gift: FOP shirt (or other) Please size: S M L XL XXL XXXL
- Life-65+ (\$300), gift: FOP shirt (or other) Please size: S M L XL XXL XXXL
- 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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Friends of Patuxent

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www.friendsofpatuxent.org

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN!

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

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

- 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)