



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

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

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Nature's Gifts

by Jennifer Greiner, Refuge Manager

This is the Season of giving... and as I drove around Lake Redington recently admiring the sunrise reflecting on the skim ice and listening to the geese, I found myself thinking about how much Nature gives us and wondering how we—collectively as humans—value those gifts. This internal line of thought blends a confluence of experiences I've had lately, both on and off the refuge:

- Colleen Webster's stirring re-enactment of Rachel Carson's life and lessons during the Friends' annual membership meeting in November.
- Aldo Leopold's quote on the Visitor Center wall: *"There are those who can live without wild things, and some who cannot... Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free."*
- My attendance at Anne Arundel County Parks & Recreation's Campfire Chat at Jug Bay, where archaeologist Stephanie Sperling and Choptico Band representative Rico Newman described in fascinating detail indigenous life along the Patuxent River 13,000 years ago.



Photo: Sandy Spencer

Refuge Manager Jennifer Greiner in the PG County-owned mature forest that covers hilly terrain with gravelly sandy soils draining to the Patuxent River.

- All of this rich history set against a backdrop woven through the book I'm reading (*Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer)...a gratitude for Nature she captures as *"What would it be like, I wondered, to live with that heightened sensitivity to the lives given for ours: To consider the tree in the Kleenex, the algae in the toothpaste, the oaks in the floor, the grapes in the wine, to follow back the thread of life in everything and pay it respect? Once you start, it's hard to stop, and you begin to feel yourself awash in gifts."*

It's interesting how such thought-provoking historical content coincides

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Nature's Gifts

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with exciting things happening in real time both on the Refuge and neighboring lands:

- Potential development of forested land owned by Prince George's County that is adjacent to the Refuge's Central Tract (featured in the last edition of this newsletter);
- My recent visit to Bowie State University, where Refuge staff walked with partners from the Alliance for



Photo: Jennifer Greiner

Refuge Biologist Sandy Spencer by mature beech tree in the PG County-owned forest, which contains numerous hardwoods in the 50-75 year age range.

the Chesapeake Bay, the Maryland Forest Service, and others to brainstorm options to connect students from multiple disciplines with the natural lands they are so fortunate to have at the doorstep of their campus;

- The recent survey seeking input from the community on the future of the Bowie Racetrack;
- Plans for the completion of the Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Trail that will at long last con-



Photo: Jennifer Greiner

One of two large ponds on the PG County-owned property, relics of sand and gravel mining, now provide habitat for ducks, fish, and other aquatic life.

nect the Prince George's and Anne Arundel County segments via a pedestrian-friendly bridge across the Patuxent River;

- Refuge staff participation in training on how to co-design recreational options WITH and not FOR our local community and our plan to apply this learning to Refuge land at the North Tract entrance, where the ballfield use permit will terminate at the end of December.

All of this together spells... Opportunity! We face opportunities to engage our local community, to make the

Refuge more welcoming, safe, and inclusive, to better connect people with nature, to be champions for wild things and their role in our collective standard of living, and to better reciprocate the gifts this landscape gives us throughout the year by making it more accessible.

As you can see, Patuxent Research Refuge has many balls in the air...and with a little help from our Friends, we'll catch a few! I wish everyone a joyous season filled with an abundance of Nature and I look forward to continuing our important work together on her behalf in 2023. 🐾

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 19, or join online at <https://www.friendsofpatuxent.org>.

Heralding Two More Wildlife Images Volunteers!

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

We introduce two more wonderful *Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Images* Bookstore & Nature Shop* Volunteers: Sue Straney, and Elizabeth Knutson! Next time you're in the National Wildlife Visitor Center on the Refuge's South Tract on a Thursday or Friday, please stop by the shop to say hi. Both Sue and Elizabeth help staff our shop: Sue, for about a year and a half now, and Elizabeth since March of this year.

Volunteer Sue Straney grew up in Connecticut, where she lived until she went to college. Sue is an avid reader, as well as a musician and a singer: she plays violin and viola and sings in three bands! She also enjoys attending Shakespeare plays and hiking. Sue and her husband Dave came to the Laurel area about 30 years ago as molecular biologists and raised their children here. They enjoy hiking on the Refuge and walking their dog, Rosie, a black-lab mix (see photo). After Sue retired, she decided to volunteer at the Refuge. She first helped with the Visitor Center's Pollinator Habitat Garden, where she met Sue Priftis. Ms. Priftis is a Refuge and *Friends* volunteer, and a former *Friends of Patuxent* board member. One day while they were working in the Pollinator Habitat Garden, Ms. Priftis mentioned that the *Friends'* Bookstore and Nature Shop needed more volunteers — and, as the saying goes, “the rest is history!” Ms. Straney notes that she has fun with the wonderful staff members, volunteers, and visitors she meets at the Refuge and in the *Friends'* bookshop.

Volunteer Elizabeth Knutson grew up on Long Island, New York and has lived in the Washington, D.C. area for many years. Raised in New York but with parents from Minnesota, Elizabeth “learned to love winter snow and frosty weather.” She relishes learning about all kinds of wildlife — one of the reasons she first gravitated to the *Friends'* Bookstore and Nature Shop as a customer — and loves hiking and biking, movies, reading



Photo: Dave Straney

Sue Straney's husband Dave photographed Sue walking their dog Rosie, an 11-and-a-half-year-old black-lab mix, on one of the trails at Patuxent Research Refuge; Laurel, MD. (Rosie is shy because she suffered abuse before Sue and Dave adopted her about 10.5 years ago).

and writing (especially ghost stories!), baking, and line-dancing. Elizabeth remarked that she enjoys being at the Refuge itself: entering another world as she drives the “lovely Scarlet Tanager Loop leading to the Visitor Center,” seeing the lakes, and walking the trails. She and her husband Michael MacQueen, a recently retired historian, often walk their dog, Lily, an Australian shepherd (see photo) on some of the trails.

Elizabeth became a *Friends'* shop volunteer after several trips to the National Wildlife Visitor Center over the years. She visited the *Wildlife Images* shop as a customer, and twice now has participated as a vendor in the *Friends'* annual Holiday Bazaar, offering her nature-themed paper quilts for sale. She finds the bookstore and the Visitor Center appealing and interesting to visit and appreciates the diversity of the shop's customers, including many children. In her professional life Elizabeth supervised French and Italian training



Photo: Michael MacQueen

Elizabeth Knutson's husband Michael MacQueen photographed Elizabeth and their dog Lily in Savage River State Forest (Grantsville, MD). Lily is an Australian shepherd they adopted as a puppy about 10 years ago. (Lily is shy because she grew up in a horse barn with no initial people exposure).

at the US State Department and taught French as a professor at the US Naval Academy. She delights in hearing the broad range of languages spoken by customers in the shop, which so far includes French, Polish, Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish, and Ukrainian. Another joy for her in volunteering here comes from the opportunity to learn new skills; she had never worked in a sales environment before. Elizabeth cites working with the shop's “excellent and fun” bookshop manager, meeting Refuge staff and other volunteers, and experiencing educational exhibits like the monarch butterfly project in the Visitor Center as additional pleasures.

* The profits from the *Friends of Patuxent's* Wildlife Images Bookstore & Nature Shop go to support the mission of the Patuxent Research Refuge and the Eastern Ecological Science Center and are part of the *Friends of Patuxent's* fundraising efforts on behalf of this Refuge. 🐾

A Surprising Band Recovery from the U.S. Geological Survey Bird Banding Lab's Fall Migration Station at Patuxent Research Refuge

by *Stephanie Egger, Biologist, USGS Bird Banding Lab; Joelle Gehring, Biologist, USFWS Migratory Birds Program; Kyra Harvey, Biologist, Akima; Jennifer Malpass, Biologist, USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center*

The Bird Banding Lab, part of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Eastern Ecological Science Center at Patuxent Research Refuge, recently got a report of an amazing banding recovery. A Cape May Warbler that was banded at the lab's fall migration station in 2013 was found this September in Pennsylvania, shattering the longevity record at a remarkable 9 years old! Unfortunately, this warbler will not be able to continue her journey south as she was found dead after striking a window.

This bird shatters the longevity record for Cape May Warblers in the lab's 100-year-old banding database, with the previous record holder being only 4 years and 3 months old. A longevity record is the oldest individual known for a particular species and helps us gain a better understanding of species' lifespans. You can explore the Bird Banding Lab's longevity records at: https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/longevity/Longevity_main.cfm

Danny Bystrak, who recently retired from the lab and has held a banding permit for 55 years, was thrilled by the discovery. "I have had over a thousand of my birds encountered, and this is definitely the coolest one," Bystrak said.

This bird is certainly extraordinary and a welcome surprise. Along with being a longevity record holder, Cape May Warblers are migratory and not often banded at the lab's migration station. The lab has only banded a total of 24 Cape May Warblers in the past 15 years. In addition, although the Bird Banding Lab staff and volunteers reg-



A Cape May Warbler banded at the USGS Bird Banding Lab's fall migration station.

Photo: Public domain

ularly recapture birds that were banded at the migration station, it isn't often we get reports of birds banded at our station being found at other locations.

Despite the lab's excitement for the data this encounter has provided, the story of how the bird was found is less optimistic. A homeowner in Pennsylvania discovered this warbler underneath one of her windows after the bird collided with the glass while migrating to its wintering grounds. Research shows that collisions with structures such as buildings and glass are a major source of mortality for migratory birds, with up to 1 billion birds killed annually from building collisions in the United States. Nearly all collisions with glass occur at low-rise buildings and at urban and

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Photo: Mikey Lutmerding, USGS

The tongue of the Cape May Warbler has a special shape that allows this bird to sip nectar from tropical flowers on its wintering grounds in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America.

Silent Witnesses: Blue Periwinkles

by Jerry Persall, President Emeritus, Castle Rock Historical Society

It is no secret that for most volunteers at Patuxent Research Refuge no matter how long or short your tenure there, you can often accumulate a lifetime of solid memories. It has been twenty years since I left Patuxent as a volunteer naturalist, member of the board of directors for the Friends of Patuxent, and Chairperson of what used to be called the Wildlife Art Show. When asked, I continue to say that my most memorable experience was doing the Calling Frog Survey beginning in late winter when the Spring Peepers *Pseudacris crucifer* begin their cacophony of hordes of males calling under the night sky. Driving the Refuge route at night with 2-3 other volunteers and standing silently, clipboard in hand, while trying to discern 4-6 different species of male frogs calling in the night is as close to a naturalist's meditation as you can get. The memory is still fresh all these years later.

One particular memory, however, I had to have help reconstructing recently and I have no idea why it sprang to mind all these years later out here in the mountain west, near the shadow of the Rocky Mountains where my wife Mary and I have lived for some 17 years now. Thanks to longtime friend Matt Perry for helping me remember.

I once visited the barely discernable foundation remains of one of the Snowden's 17th-century slave plantations on the North Tract with the northbound lane of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway visible through the trees. I was with one or two other volunteers who were out exploring near the not always accessible Snowden Cem-

etry. A favorite book of mine, "Then and Now", had proved useful in seeing how world-famous ruins like the Egyptian pyramids or the Maya city of Teotihuacan looked in their glory days as opposed to how they appeared as ruins on the days you visited them. I learned from it to close my eyes and see the Birmingham Manor as it existed some 300 years earlier with tobacco barns surrounding the brick-laid manor house and a sweeping view of the nearby Patuxent River.



The image is "Periwinkles Vinca minor"

Not often discussed, obvious if you read the history of the Refuge you will learn that Patuxent has not always been Patuxent. Things change. When Robert Snowden, Jr. built the Birmingham Manor house in 1690, it was located in the Robin Hood's Forest section of the vast Snowden estate. After being in the family for over 200 years it was destroyed by fire on August 20, 1891.

"Over the years many other Snowden homes were located close by as each generation added their homes to the community. There were at least 10 Snowden mansions within ten miles of Birmingham. In the eastern portion of what is now Montgomery County,

there are more Snowden homes, some in excellent condition.

The present-day site of Birmingham Manor is on the east side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, opposite the Laurel Airport, near Laurel, MD. This part of the [Snowden property](#) became part of the Fort George G. Meade Military Reservation in 1941 during World War II. In 1991 the U.S. Army transferred 8,100 acres of land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This land was added to the 4,700-acre Patuxent Wildlife Research Center."

Photo: Public Domain

A single element made a small impression on me that has remained. Where the steps used to be so long ago, was a C-shaped growth of Periwinkles *Vinca minor* still blooming every year and a poignant reminder that people used to live their lives here and someone had planted the 5-petaled blue flowers around the steps. The house and the people were long since gone but the

Periwinkles remained. I subsequently learned that Periwinkles in a 3-sided rectilinear pattern are almost always a dead giveaway for a house that no longer exists. 🐾



Amazing and Successful- 2022 Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

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

If you weren't able to attend the November 5th Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar, we'll share some of the excitement through photos and Bazaar memories with you.

We're sure that the nearly 900 visitors that day could sense the holiday spirit in the air. The lobby and meeting rooms were festively decorated. Holiday music was playing, visitors were shopping, children laughing, people enjoyed snacks and delicious bakery items, and lots of smiles were shared by volunteers, committee members, and Refuge staff.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Welcome to the Friends Bazaar. So many great places to visit.

Twenty-three vendors offered a wide variety of items including honey, bird and bat houses, beeswax wraps, fine jewelry, children's books, wildlife art and photography, pottery, quilts and much more! Also, as in the past, vendors gave 15 percent of their sales for that day to the Friends. One vendor donated 100 percent of his sales! This meant that a portion of every purchase directly helped support the Friends and the Refuge.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Beeswax Vendor and two happy visitors all abuzz.

Ranger Tim Parker conducted two programs featuring the Screech owl. He also toured the lobby several times so that visitors could meet the owl and take closeup photos. Visitors were fascinated to see such an amazing and small critter and learn that this type of owl is native to Maryland – very cool!



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Park Ranger Tim Parker with Screech Owl greeting guests.

Baldy's Bargains, a thrift shop, provided yet another fun place to shop. These new or gently used items were donated by volunteers, Friends members and Refuge staff. Thank you for your donations!



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

A shopper finds a treasure at Baldy's Bargains



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Karen Atwood and Courtnye Koivisto, Friends Board Members and Friends Volunteers, staffing the Crane Café and Bake sale; Gail Melson (back to camera), Friends Volunteer and co-lead for the Crane Café and Bake sale heading to the kitchen.

Visitors and volunteers gathered at the Crane Café for an enjoyable lunch or snack. The accompanying bake sale allowed shoppers a chance to buy donated sweets and goodies. By early afternoon the baked goods were nearly sold out.

Over 80 visitors found their way to the Kids Crafts and Origami tables. Two Cub Scouts and a Boy Scout volunteered their time that day to teach origami skills to visitors. Everyone who stopped by left with their own handmade ornament and/or an awesome origami animal to take home.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Friends Volunteer Kathy Lynn helping a child make an ornament to take home.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Mary Ellen Killeen, Friends Volunteer, being ready to greet shoppers at the Plant Table.

A variety of donated house plants were available at the Plant Table. A donation of any amount allowed a shopper to pick a plant. What a bargain!

Wildlife Images, the Friends book and nature store was open for business earlier than usual. Many bazaar attendees shopped here as well. At a



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Ann Carlson, Manager of the Friends Wildlife Images Bookstore and Nature Shop awaiting shoppers.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

Will Hershkowitz, Friends and Refuge Volunteer, talks with a shopper about nest boxes and bat houses.

table near the bookstore, bird nest boxes and bat boxes were available. They sold out and orders taken! Refuge volunteer Will Hershkowitz, makes the boxes which are sold in Wildlife Images.

A very big "THANKS" goes to each of the many volunteers who made this event possible and such a success.



Photo: Nell Baldacchino

The Friends display table gave visitors a wide range of information.



Photo: Matt Beziat

Only in Maryland - A crabby Santa!

We want to recognize the volunteers on the set-up days: Karen Atwood, Ken Cohen, Hank Dahlstrom, Marie Delaney, Stephanie Everett, Dennis Hartnett, Becky Henkin, Sid Henkin, Stephanie Kaufman, Kathy Lynn, Sue Priftis, Dave Tate, Harold Woomer, and Natalie Woomer.

Volunteers who helped on event day were: Nell Baldacchino, Matt Beziat,



Photo: Matt Beziat

A young visitor checks out some games.



Photo: Matt Beziat

Look what I made!



Photo: Matt Beziat

The Patuxent Polar Bear got into the holiday spirit.

Mary Blanchard, Hank Dahlstrom, Jean Dickason, Jeannine Dorothy, Dennis Hartnett, Becky Henkin, Sid Henkin, Barrie Hershkowitz, Ethan Hershkowitz, Aiden Hershkowitz, Owen Hershkowitz, Will Hershkowitz, Ann Hodgdon, Bobby Jones, Mary Ellen Killeen, Courtney Koivisto, Cathy Kuehne, Kathy Lynn, Gail Melson, Janet Mirsky, Steve Mirsky, Lauren Moyer, Lisa Moyer, Sue Priftis, and Natalie Woomer. Thank you all for your hard work, time, and infectious smiles. We couldn't have done this without YOU!

We appreciate the support from the Friends of Patuxent (FOP) Board, who attended the event and staffed

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Annual Pollinator Festival Creates a Delightful Buzz

by Rich Dolesh, Chair, Friends of Patuxent

Hissing cockroaches. Monarch butterflies emerging from their cocoons to be released to fly free. Kids making art creations based on the life of pollinating insects. Honeybees in a transparent hive. Pollinator experts who gave tips on how you can create better pollinator habitat in your own backyard. Free native pollinator plants to attendees. All this and more put smiles on the faces of participants at the Friends of Patuxent annual Pollinator Festival this past September at the Patuxent Research Refuge.

This highly popular event was suspended for two years during the Covid pandemic but came back with a bang and had the highest attendance ever. Approximately 500 people attended the 2022 festival on a beautiful fall day in late September—families with children, seniors on an outing to the Refuge, and every age in between.



Photo: Rich Dolesh

The USDA bee exhibit was enormously popular with festival visitors.

The Friends of Patuxent began the pollinator festival, originally titled the Monarch Festival, over five years ago to highlight the critical national, and local, need for conservation of pollinator species. Pollinators are in decline worldwide, not just throughout North America. Habitat fragmentation and loss, widespread pesticide use, and climate change are just a few of the reasons that the diversity and numbers of pollinating species are shrinking. The trendlines are not improving and likely won't without a collective national effort.



Photo: Rich Dolesh

Friends and refuge volunteer Barrie Hershkowitz ready to place an adult monarch in the hands of children for release into the wild.

Scientists at the Eastern Ecological Science Center of the USGS at Patuxent and biologists and habitat managers of the US Fish and Wildlife Service are studying this decline and providing real-time research and habitat management findings to Refuge managers, farmers, public lands owners and others about the threats to pollinators and solutions for recovering these valuable wildlife species.

But equally important is the need to educate the public about the importance of conservation of pollinators and to involve them in a nationwide effort to bring pollinators back to healthy levels. That is why the Friends of Patuxent annual pollinator festival is such an important way to make the science of pollinators come alive for young and old alike.

The Friends would like to acknowledge the many organizations and volunteers



Photo: Rich Dolesh

Friends board member Helen Metzman creating butterfly prints on fabric for participants.

who gave their time to make this year's event such a success, namely the University of Maryland Insect Zoo, the Rachel Carson Council, the Master Gardeners of Anne Arundel County, the USGS Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab, the Maryland Natural History Society Museum, the Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association, Anne Marie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center, the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Laurel for Patuxent citizens group, the Wildlife Images Bookstore and Nature Shop, Beaver Creek Cottage Garden, Remeadow.org, Sparky and Jeanne Sparks for the monarch display, the volunteers of the Kids Discovery Center for the live monarch learning station, and the inimitable Elmer Dengler for his mini-clinics for homeowners on how to create their own pollinator habitats. Special thanks to the staff of the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center and the US Fish and Wildlife Service at Patuxent Research Refuge for their many contributions and the many volunteers of the Patuxent Research Refuge and Friends of Patuxent, including a number of Air Force airmen from Fort Meade. Finally, a special shout out and commendation to chair of the Pollinator Festival this year, Liz Humes, and board members Karen Atwood and Helen Lowe Metzman for their extraordinary effort to make this event the success it was. 🦋

Watching, a Great Blue Heron in Oil

by Isabel Liao, Refuge Volunteer

Editor's Note: Before COVID, Isabel Liao volunteered at the Refuge. She wants to continue supporting the work of conservation and thinks what the Refuge does is very meaningful. Through several fundraising activities of selling her original artwork, Isabel collected \$2,000 that she donated to the Refuge through Friends of Patuxent. Here, in her own words, Isabel explains her wildlife conservation feelings.

I still remember the first time I visited Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. It was raining, but that did nothing to dull the bright flowers in front of the Visitor Center. I was there to attend the Monarch Butterfly Training Program. I had heard about the migration that monarch butterflies undertake every year, and was eager to raise monarch caterpillars with fellow volunteers.

Halfway through the training, when one of the seasoned volunteers was describing the stages of monarch caterpillar growth, I suddenly didn't feel well and had to rush to the bathroom. While there, I heard the door open and someone started talking to my mom. After I came out, mom told me that Diana had come to give me food and water.

I didn't know a lot about Diana Ogilvie. All I knew was that she was the volunteer coordinator. However, her kindness inspired me to do more work for the Refuge because she showed me a welcoming and supportive attitude, which is what all volunteers love. I was making plans to go back to the Refuge, but COVID had other plans. After adjusting to the new reality of virtual-everything, I turned to one of my longtime hobbies as a substitute for in-person volunteering. Being a lover of art since childhood, I wondered how I could use art to help the Refuge in a tangible way. I didn't want to simply advertise for the Refuge on social media. Given

my limited reach, I couldn't guarantee that someone would see my post and actually become a patron or a volunteer. I figured that it was best for me to take action on my own instead of waiting for someone else to do so. My best bet was fundraising, so I thought about what kind of art I could sell. It didn't take long for me to come up with an answer: painting.



My opportunity to do something came in the summer of 2022 when I found out that my art teacher, who had kept my painting supplies since quarantine started, offered online classes. For years I had taken classes with him, but COVID had forced me to quit.

Upon bringing home my supplies, I immediately resumed classes with my art teacher and dedicated myself to painting again. For my first painting after my hiatus, I chose a Great Blue Heron. Over the summer break, I spent hours working on it. When I finished it, the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair was preparing to open, so I submitted my painting to its art exhibit. A few weeks later, I got the news that my painting had won the Teen Champion Award.

In addition to being a lifetime artist, I've loved animals my entire life. A clear favorite has been birds. I'm not sure why I chose to paint a heron in particular, given that it isn't that colorful or rare. In hindsight, I realize that herons are arguably the quintessential birds of Maryland. What comes to mind when I think about Maryland? The Chesapeake Bay, crabs, and Great Blue Herons. However, to protect the environment, we can't neglect other wildlife. Great Blue Herons are doing quite well, but that can't be said for many other animals. That's why I sold my heron painting to help fund the conservation work of Patuxent Research Refuge.

The Refuge works to protect and conserve a wide variety of wildlife. It took a while, but I found a way to support the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge even though I couldn't volunteer myself. Even though I long to go back to the Refuge in person, I'm glad that I've found my way to help through what I do best. Art. 🐾

Around the Refuge

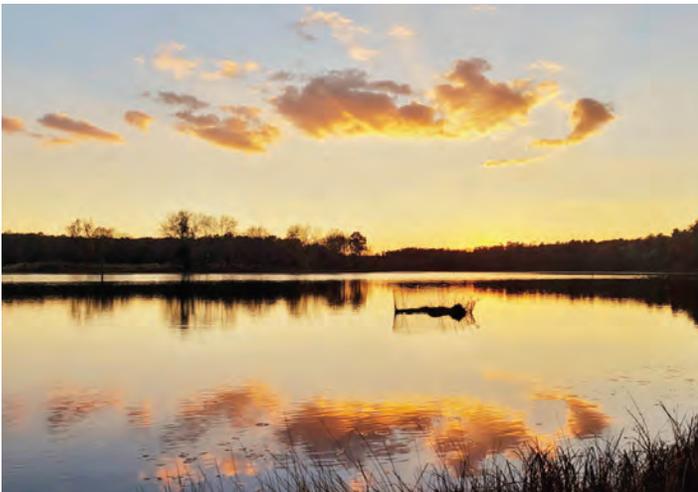
Photos by Matt Beziat, Volunteer



Blue Heron pond (North Tract)



Sharp-Scaly Photiota (South Tract)



Cash Lake (South Tract)



Orange Milkwort (North Tract)



Nodding Lady's Tresses (North Tract)



Lake Reddington (South Tract)

A Winter Visitor: Red-breasted Nuthatch

by Steve Noyes, Volunteer

The Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR) provides one of the largest forested areas (at just under 13,000 acres) along the coastal plain in the mid-Atlantic region. The Refuge’s diverse habitat also includes meadows, lakes/ponds and wetlands. Because of this variety of habitats, the Refuge attracts many winter migrants, including the not-often-seen Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*).

Although this species breeds in coniferous forests throughout southern Canada, the Northeast, the Appalachian mountains, the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest, it can be seen throughout the U. S. in the winter. It becomes more abundant in “irruptive” winters when food sources (mainly cones) become diminished in its breeding area. Conifers (pines and firs) can go through annual cycles



Photo: Public domain

Description

Size of a Red-breasted Nuthatch is about 4.5” in length.

Its back and uppertail are a bluish-gray, and its underparts rust-colored.

It has a black cap and eye line and a white eyebrow.

Male and female are similar with the female being paler.

Conservation

Because of its abundant annual range it is considered a “species of least concern”. The greatest concern would be the loss of breeding habitat which is of little concern at the present.

So, keep a watchful eye for this diminutive visitor when you visit the Refuge this winter. 🦊

Source: Wikipedia

Amazing and Successful-2022 Friends Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

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the Friends Display Table: Stephanie Kaufman, who coordinated and scheduled the FOP Board members; Rich Dolesh, Chair; Karen Atwood; Mike Burke, Courtney Koivisto, Bekka Thompson, and Cody Thompson.

Refuge staff who supported the event and helped us out included: Jennifer Greiner, Jason Cangelosi, Diana Ogilvie, Tim Parker, and Jeff Bolden.

Thanks to Ann Carlson, Wildlife Images Bookstore Manager, and the bookstore volunteers who worked on the day of the event. They welcomed shoppers and provided even more holiday choices to buy. The bookstore realized record sales – hoorah!



Photo: Matt Beziat

Shoppers young and old had a great time at the bazaar.

The FOP Wildlife Holiday Bazaar Committee consisted of Brenda Stone, Chair; Mary Ann Hartnett, Stephanie Everett, Natalie Woomer, Gail Melson, Ann Carlson, Diana Ogilvie, and Jeanne Latham. Brenda not only guided the committee members during the year, but collected and tagged the 1,500 Baldy’s Bargain items, including hundreds of books that were for sale. Mary Ann Hartnett coordinated the vendors; Stephanie



Photo: Matt Beziat

The joy of discovery!

Everett set up the Crane Café; Gail Melson and Ann Hodgdon co-lead the Crane Café and bake sale on event day; and Jeanne Latham coordinated all the volunteers for the set-up days and the day of the event.

We apologize if we failed to mention other folks who helped out with this event.

Hoping we’ll see another Wildlife Holiday Bazaar again next year! 🦊

Annual Meeting Draws Record Crowd!

by Mike Burke, Friends of Patuxent Board of Directors

Rachel Carson reenactor Coleen Webster helped draw a record crowd of more than 100 people to the Friends of Patuxent Annual Members Meeting on November 19, 2022. Webster's one person show focused on the extraordinary legacy of Carson, author of the influential book *Silent Spring*. Groundbreaking research done at the Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR) formed the basis of Carson's book.



Photo: Ross Feldner

Refuge Manager Jennifer Greiner speaks to the audience.

The annual meeting, held at the National Wildlife Visitor Center at PRR, celebrated the 60th anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring*. In addition to Webster's presentation, the lobby area showcased several photo displays of Carson's life and legacy. Photos came from the Visitor Center collection and the [Rachel Carson Council](#) a nonprofit in Silver Spring, where Carson lived and wrote some of her most famous works.

The Friends' meeting was jam-packed with information. Rich Dolesh, Chair of the Friends' Board, summarized the Friends' activities during 2022. They included raising funds for both the Refuge and the Eastern Ecological Science Center (EESC). The EESC, America's premier wildlife research center, is located on the Refuge's Central Tract.



Photo: Mike McLaughlin

Rachel Carson reenactor Coleen Webster performing to a rapt audience.



Photo: Mike McLaughlin

Display of Patuxent's Rachel Carson photos.

Friends also sponsored the annual Holiday Bazaar and the Pollinator Festival. The Friends also worked with the Refuge on the Chan Robbins Outdoor Education Center and its Wisdom Trail, as well as the Urban Wildlife Conservation Day and Bird Fest. Notably, these programs returned for the first time since COVID-19 halted public activities at Patuxent in March 2020. Some programs took place on the Refuge's South Tract, where the Visitor Center is

located. Other programs brought participants to the North Tract, the largest section of the Refuge. The Central Tract is often closed to the public because of the sensitive work that scientists are conducting to benefit worldwide wildlife species.

Dolesh thanked the many volunteers who made these programs possible along with the financial support of Friends members.



Photo: Mike McLaughlin

Beautiful custom cake for the occasion.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Dolesh introduced Jennifer Greiner, Manager of the Refuge. Greiner welcomed the crowd to the Refuge, the only Refuge in America that also has a full-time research component, the EESC. Uniquely, the Refuge portions are operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while the EESC is operated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Greiner then introduced Julien Martin, PhD., a supervisor biologist at EESC. Dr. Martin outlined his research on wildlife ecology and decision science to the crowd. He also mentioned a wide range of wildlife research by USGS designed to help birds, fish, herptiles, and mammals.

Webster then took the floor in the persona of Rachel Carson. Webster effortlessly recounted important episodes in Carson's life through an imagined conversation with her friend Dorothy Freeman. After graduating at the top of her college class, Carson was hired as a junior biologist at the predecessor of today's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Although she conducted some research of her own, she was most often called upon to put her gifted writing skills to work on behalf of refuges across the country. Eventually, she was promoted to Editor-in-Chief of all Service publications.

After 16 years in federal service, Carson resigned to write full time. The serialized publication of Silent Spring in the *New Yorker* in 1962 resulted in a firestorm of controversy from the chemical industry. A presidential panel validated Carson's work, setting the stage for America's environmental movement. 🐾



Photo: Ross Feldner

Attendees waiting to register for the big event!



Photo: Mike McLaughlin

Friends of Patuxent Board President Rich Dolesh makes his opening remarks.



Photo: Ross Feldner

Treats and sweets were a big hit.



Photo: Ross Feldner

Rachel Carson Council's display.

Historic Snowden-Duvall Mill

Patuxent River, Patuxent Research Refuge

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

Few employees at Patuxent have knowledge of an historic structure that is located in the woods and known officially as the Snowden-Duvall Mill. Some deer hunters have probably stumbled on it while exploring areas to hunt, but probably did not know what it was as its precise purpose has been lost in time. It is in Anne Arundel County not far from the Duvall Bridge near the intersection of the Telegraph Road and the fence that once separated Fort Meade from Patuxent Research Refuge.

The mill is depicted on a 1794 map of Maryland but was probably built by Richard Snowden (1690-1763) in the 1730s. Richard was known as “The Ironmaster” and built a furnace and a forge in the mill area. The mill was most likely purchased by Dr. Charles Duvall around 1816 when he purchased a 243-acre tract of land in this area called “Contention.” Laura Kerr Griffith inherited the property and the mill when her father, Dr. Duvall, died in 1862. On maps of the area dated 1861 and 1878 the mill was identified as a gristmill and a sawmill.

When the government obtained the land that became Patuxent Research Refuge in 1936, several buildings including a frame house on stone and concrete foundation and a poultry shed were near the mill. These buildings were demolished by the government, but the foundations remain to promote memories of the past by rare visitors to the sites.

When Mr. John Stasko came to Patuxent in 1987 as the first official facility manager, I took him to this site. John had an insatiable appetite for any information on the history of Patuxent, especially dealing with building structures. I remember trying to understand with him the workings of the mill and how in



Facility Manager, John Stasko, inspecting old Snowden-Duvall Mill, 1988



M. Perry on mill showing belt wheel that probably powered sawmill.



Former Patuxent employee, Oliver Perry, inside old Snowden-Duvall mill structure. On left is the gear and belt wheel above the mechanism (below-ground) that was powered by the water wheel inside the mill.



Opening view from top showing mill area where a wooden water wheel might have existed.

this swampy area a long distance from the Patuxent River it could possibly receive enough water to function.

I told him the story that Dr. Fran Uhler had told me on how slaves had built a raceway upriver that directed a steady flow of water to the site. The road in Anne Arundel County that follows the path of the river is called Mill Race Road. Although the terminus of the raceway can be seen in a concrete culvert when the raceway goes under Telegraph Road, I was never able to find the origin of the raceway (headrace). It most likely has been obliterated by many floods in the bottomland forest that constantly erode the banks and accretes the soil in other areas downstream, including the millrace.

The mill has been nominated in the past for historic recognition by listing in the National Register of Historic Places and also by the Maryland Historic Trust, but without success. Surprisingly, the mill and the historic mill site are not mentioned by Dr. Leland Morley in his 1949 report on the history and development of Patuxent. It is also not mentioned in the 1987 US Park Service review of all structures at Patuxent. It is discussed in the 1987 “Archeological Overview and Assessment of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland,” by John Pousson, and this information was used in this article. Hopefully someday a government agency or person will study the area in more depth to reveal some of the mysteries and secrets of this historic site used by previous occupants of the Refuge. 

Why Hibernate? Come Recreate; Rejuvenate!

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

Frigid air, gray skies, frozen, snowy, monochrome landscapes — I feel an urge to curl up, sleep, sleep some more, hibernate... But then that word, “hibernate,” begins to resonate with thoughts of little dens and burrows, mental images of animals tucked inside, some hiding, some slumbering, some just living their lives in the slow lane awhile. Those images slide to ponds and mud, and turtles and frogs slumbering within, heart rates incredibly slowed — Life, seemingly suspended, but not ended.

Suddenly my thoughts jump to small creatures living and tunneling around under a layer of snow and earth, their carefully collected stores of seeds and maybe leaves and nuts and berries sustaining them; their movements unseen, but not unheard... I imagine beautifully feathered, winged wonders perching above them, above these blankets of wild snow and earth — winged wonders, listening, watching, waiting. My mind’s eye sees small, raised ridges in lines beneath snow or under sparse dry grass, sometimes punctured, sometimes erupting in tiny tracks, fresh tracks in mud and snow, small pawprints left, and wiggly lines etched by passing tails. Clues coalesce into dramatic stories -- tales traced in snow and earth by swooping wings and scurrying feet — remains of moments had, and moments moving on.

To learn to read these tales and more, come see what Patuxent’s Winter 2023 “Kids’ Discovery Center,” “Family Fun,” and “Winter Wonderland” programs have to offer you in the National Wildlife Visitor Center! Find us at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop in Laurel. Inside the spacious and inviting Visitor Center you’ll find free, fun, and stimulating activities for children and adults alike. There are opportunities for arts and craft creations, science exploration,



Photo: Karen Atwood

Educational games, puzzles, unique jewelry, and gift items in the Friends’ Bookstore & Nature Shop, in the National Wildlife Visitor Center on the South Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. The shop is open Tuesdays through Saturdays: Saturdays, 10AM-4PM; Tuesdays through Fridays, 11AM-4PM. (Closed on federal holidays and when the Visitor Center is closed.)

tion, puzzle-solving, and games in the “Kids’ Discovery Center” and the “Family Fun” activity stations. You can also come wander through Center exhibits and sit down to enjoy scheduled Ranger program offerings — opportunities abound for gentle listening, learning, absorbing, exploring. Your curiosity will begin to stir; spring will whisper within the winter of your mind, and gradually, winter’s weariness will recede. You’ll go home renewed and refreshed!

“Family Fun” education and exploration activity stations are free, drop-in stations, suitable for all ages and continuously open during normal Visitor Center hours. “Kids Discovery Center” activities are appropriate for ages 3-8; the Ranger-led “Winter Wonderland” program age range is 4-7 years. The latter two programs are also free but require advance registration so that sufficient space, supplies, and materials are available.

You can also come meet a live American Kestrel — a small and beautifully feathered native falcon — on certain Saturdays during winter. Check out the Patuxent Research Refuge web-



Photo: Karen Atwood

Figure out and follow the telltale clues that animals leave behind! Books available in the Friends’ of Patuxent’s Wildlife Images Bookstore & Nature Shop. Members and active Military can receive 10% off purchases

site for details and information on these public programs: www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent. Call 301-497-5887 to register or for registration information. And while you’re here, please check out the activity-station and program-related educational games, puzzles, adult and children’s books, as well as field guides, puppets, gifts and more in the Friends of Patuxent’s* Bookstore & Nature Shop, also in the Visitor Center.

*Friends of Patuxent is the nonprofit group formed to support this refuge’s educational programming, exhibits and research through fundraising, donations, and bequests. The Friends’ Bookstore & Nature Shop profits go to support refuge missions. Friends’ members and active Military personnel can receive a 10% discount off their shop purchases. Website: www.friendsopatuxent.org. 



Merchandise sales support the mission of the Refuge.

Thank You,
The Friends of Patuxent



Hollingsworth Exhibits - Winter 2023

by Faith Leahy-Thielke, Patuxent Volunteer

Winter's artists of the month are a talented trio whose work will warm our hearts if not the rest of our bodies. In January, Hollingsworth Gallery welcomes multidisciplinary artist, Racquel Keller; in February, Graeme Simpson's "photographer friends;" and in March, photographer and contract engineer, Bill Mish.

Racquel Keller of Glendale is an artist who works in a variety of media – by herself or in combination with others. She uses painting, drawing, printmaking, and assemblage or collage to create. She has a degree in Graphic Design from American University, and holds a Leadership Certificate from Georgetown. Keller has twice been the recipient of Denis Diderot grants and had been an "artist-in-residence several times as far away as Orqueville, France, as close as Greenbelt, and is scheduled for the Bahamas next year. Keller teaches at Montgomery College and offers private lessons.

Keller's walks with her dog at the Patuxent Refuge have provided the inspiration for some of the work she'll exhibit in January which will center around the plant and wildlife of the area. She writes that she has a vast collection of natural and vintage objects gathered over decades. She enjoys disassembling them, reanimating them, and reweaving into an assemblage that tells a story. For instance, she describes a small rusty thing, spotted in the "midst of nature's reclamation" and other "unexpected gifts of nature" found on a woods walk. She uses these objects, animals, and birds in paintings, prints, or assemblages to give their significance import. Additionally, poetry or lines from books often provide the titles for her work and "personalize the viewer's experience." Keller thinks

she'll hang small works with large mats in her exhibit, believing they encourage the viewer to home into the work itself. She'll host a reception one Saturday during January.

Graeme Simpson is well-known around the refuge. The New Zealand native has photographed and operated photography businesses at home and in Australia. Here he's traveled widely and inspired many – so glad he's "hung his hat" in Maryland. He is the "exhibition coordinator" who "wanted to encourage community participation by many photographers." The idea was welcomed by Kathryn Beard and Gloria Brown, photographers whose images are often featured in the Greenbelt News Review. February's exhibitors are Graeme's "Greenbelt Lake photography friends" including Gloria Brown, Bill Cornett, Ken Briefel, Aimee Wenzel, Charles Chuck James, Wade Stephen, Ken Nguyen, Suzanne Flynn, Mike Karloff, Gary Brown, and Andrea Zukowski, and perhaps more as well. Simpson writes that the lake at Buddy Attick Lake Park has been rejuvenated with restoration of the dam end and catchment water areas, and that restoration has encouraged wildlife resettlement. This park does a fine job at balancing recreation areas for families with natural and manmade wilderness sections. Each photographer will submit two framed images of this wetland habitat and the lake's surroundings in all seasons. Graeme writes that many nesting birds "migrate through" from our Refuge to feed at the Greenbelt lake making bird watching a major, but only one of the attractions of this park. This exhibit will show case them all.

In March we'll enjoy the photography of the Marylander, **Bill Mish** who grew up swimming, fishing and boating on the Chesapeake

Bay – lucky enough to have it in his backyard. At 15 he saved up for and bought his first camera, a Nikon FMZ with a 50 mm lens. He describes that this "love of water" combined with his "love of photography as a natural progression." He studied photography in high school and continued while at St. Mary's College in Maryland – graduating with a BA in economics. He lived for a time in Arizona (talk about a totally different environment), but his explorations there "further fired his passion for photography." After a move east to Virginia, Mr. Mish earned a degree at Virginia Tech in Ocean and Aerospace Engineering. Today he's a contract engineer for the Navy living in Annapolis, but he also has a house in Wachapreague – a seaside town on Virginia's eastern shore. It boasts 230 permanent residents and acres of undeveloped and unspoiled wetlands. What a perfect setting for a man with twin passions for water and photography. Mish's theme for his Hollingsworth exhibit will be the Chesapeake and its wildlife - above and under the water!

Winter's wonderful series of exhibits look extra inviting. See you near the gallery. 🦋



Winter Programs at Patuxent Research Refuge

by Tim Parker, Lead Education Ranger

NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Intro to Photography

Sun., Jan. 22nd, 1:30- 2:30 pm
Ages 11+, registration required

How do you step away from the auto feature of your camera and really start making art? In this class we will learn about f-stop and other camera features that will help us get the pictures we really want.

Skulls Identification

Sun., Feb. 12th, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Ages 5+, registration required

Did you know that animal skulls tell a story? Learn to examine the teeth, eye placement, and shape of a skull to make an educated guess as to how the animal lived its life.

SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708

Winter Bird Walk

Sat., Jan. 14, 9:00 am - 10:30 am
All ages, no registration required

Join Ken Cohen for a walk to discover the birds that call Patuxent "home" for the winter. We hope to observe Ring-necked Ducks, White-throated Sparrows, Hermit Thrush, and many other species. Meet inside the Visitor Center at 9 am. This walk will progress snow or shine!! If we cannot walk outside, we will explore the many birds inside the Visitor Center. Bring your binoculars and dress warmly!

Welcoming Creatures to Your Back Yard

Sat. Jan. 21st, 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Sat., Feb. 18th, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

Learn how to provide basic habitat for common native creatures in your yard.

What foods are best in winter? In this class we will look at on-line resources available to help you plan to attract and see more wildlife.

Meet an American Kestrel

Sat., Jan. 21st, 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Sat., Feb. 11st, 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
All ages, no registration



Come meet an American Kestrel. In this informal show-and-tell time, see what makes the American kestrel an expert at hunting in meadows.

Family Fun -- Winter Wildlife

Fri., Jan. 27th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sat., Jan. 28th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Fri., Feb. 17th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sat., Feb. 18th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
All ages, registration required

We may spend cold weather snuggled up inside, but most of the animals at Patuxent continue going about their business as usual. Winter is a great time to look for wildlife, or for signs that they are around. Even when we don't see the animals themselves, we can tell "who" has been there – and maybe what they were doing – from the footprints and other things they leave behind. Come learn about local winter wildlife through hands-on activities, games and crafts for all ages. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Nesting Already?

Sat., Feb. 25th, 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Ages 4-7, registration required

Some birds nest much earlier than others. Join Ranger Diana to find out why in this interactive kids' program.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

BSA Personal Fitness Merit Badge

Join us to work on the Personal Fitness merit badge. Registration for this merit badge is only on-line. Scouts must have a current BSA physical. We will complete requirements 1, 6, & 7, plus we will work on requirements 2-5 in class. Requirements 8 & 9 will be homework. Sign up for only one class date.

Dates: Dec 18, Jan 15, Feb 12
[Registration is only on-line.](#)

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER



Come and explore our Kids' Discovery Center! Parents and children work as a team to create crafts, solve puzzles, play games, count, sort, and learn about the wonders of nature, all within a kid-friendly environment! New monthly themes with fun-filled, hands-on activities will challenge and excite all! Activities are age-appropriate for children ages 3 -8.

Call our front desk at **301-497-5760** to reserve a 35-minute time slot for you and your child. NOTE: Parents are required to work with their child at each of the parent-led activities. 

A Surprising Band Recovery from the USGS Bird Banding Lab's Fall Migration Station

Continued from page 4

rural residences, with less than 1 percent of collision mortality at high-rise buildings. Many of the bird species or families that are reported to collide most frequently with glass are also facing significant population declines and are of conservation concern according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A 2019 study published in *Science* documenting a loss of 3 billion birds (1 in 4 birds gone) since 1970 reaffirms the need to take strong action to help birds recover. The 2022 State of the Birds report, an annual report published by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, also highlights the need for federal, state, and local governments to develop effective policies to limit collisions.

This encounter allows us to reflect on the need for scientific research to better understand the threats to birds from building collisions and which actions need to be taken to reduce those threats. USGS and USFWS are separately and collectively exploring how to address bird collisions in North America through the data available at the USGS's Bird Banding Lab database, fostering commitments to adopt bird-friendly standards for federal wildlife agency buildings, and coordinating to further develop and share resources on monitoring, mitigating, and reducing bird collisions. You can read more about steps USFWS is taking to reduce bird collisions at their facilities at: <https://www.fws.gov/story/putting-stop-bird-collisions>

A version of this article, including citations, previously appeared in the Eastern Ecological Science Center's news feed: usgs.gov/labs/bird-banding-laboratory/news/surprising-band-recovery-usgs-bird-banding-labs-fall-migration. Check out more news from our center: usgs.gov/centers/eesc/news and follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/USGSEESC. 🦋

Amazing Best-of-Show Finalists in the National Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Traveling Art Show Now on Display at Patuxent

by Vanessa Kaufman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Amazing Best-of-Show Finalists in the National Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) traveling art show are on display for the public through the end of January.

Students in kindergarten through grade twelve participate in their annual state Junior Duck Stamp Program through their school, home, art studio or after-school group, or from a national wildlife refuge, park or nature center. After learning about wetlands, waterfowl and wildlife conservation, they express their learning through a drawing or painting of a duck, goose or swan.



Photo: Jennifer Chin

The top piece of art in the nation – chosen at this annual competition – is featured on the Junior Duck Stamp, sales of which support educational programs and activities that nurture our next generation of conservationists. 🦋



Dear Friend of Patuxent,

We need your help to strengthen Friends of Patuxent and our support of the Refuge and Science Center. Friends of Patuxent is a volunteer organization, and we seek members who are willing to assist in the following roles.

1. **Board of Directors.** Help to lead the organization.
2. **Bookstore and Nature Shop Volunteers,** including someone with experience in establishing and operating an online store.
3. **Volunteers to assist with programs and events,** such as the Annual Meeting, Pollinator Festival, and Wildlife Holiday Bazaar.
4. **Information Technology (IT) specialists.** We have store and office computers and a website to maintain and keep current.
5. **Committees.** We have several committees that conduct important work of the organization.
6. **Archivist.** To organize and maintain the historical record of Friends of Patuxent.

If you can help in any of the above capacities, or would like more information, please email friendspr@friendsofpatuxent.org or phone **301-497-5789**.

Board of Directors
Friends of Patuxent



FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

- Richard Dolesh, *Chair*
- Lowell Adams, *Vice-chair*
- Helen Lowe Metzman, *Secretary*
- Stephanie Kaufman, *Treasurer*
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- Mike Burke, *Director*
- Ross Feldner, *Director*
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- Diana Ogilvie, *Patuxent Research Refuge Liaison*
- Kirby Rootes-Murphy, *USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center Liaison*

GENERAL COUNSEL

- Benjamin R. Carter, *Legal Counsel*
- Carter Law, LLC, *Beltsville, Md.*

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT BOARD MEETINGS

Friends Board meetings are currently held by Zoom at 4 pm. Dates for Board meetings for 2023 are: January 17, March 21, May 16, July 18, September 19, October 17 (both Board and annual members meeting). Dates, locations, 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) Family (\$35/yr) Contributor (\$75/yr) Sponsor (\$250/yr) Life (\$500) Life-65+ (\$300)

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

Donation \$ _____ payable to "Friends of Patuxent". Mail to: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4011

Credit card No. _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____ Security Code _____

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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National Wildlife Visitor Center
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Phone: 301-497-5789
www.friendsofpatuxent.org

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 19, or go to <https://friendsofpatuxent.org> to join online).