

# Volunteers ↔ Friends

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

www.friendspwrc.org



Friends of  
Patuxent

April-June 2009

Vol. 20, No. 2



## Ken Lavish is Volunteer of the Year for 2008

By Dennis Hartnett, Environmental Education Coordinator

Ken Lavish was honored as the 2008 Refuge Volunteer of the Year. Ken began volunteering for Patuxent Research Refuge in March of 2005. Ken is actively involved with all aspects of the Refuge including: environmental education, biology, visitor services and outreach.

Ken has been very active in the Environment Education program. Ken has greeted every group that he was responsible for in a friendly and professional manner. Ken has been part of the Crane Exhibit programs offered to visiting groups. He has added and revised the Crane Education program at Patuxent by adding important input to the curriculum and program implementation.

Ken has taken on an additional responsibility as a Whooping Crane volunteer. Working directly with the crane crew at Central Tract, Ken helps where needed with pen maintenance. Ken has also worked with the sea ducks by helping with their feeding.

He is also an active nest box monitor at South Tract.

Ken has shown true professionalism in his daily volunteer commitments. Being so actively involved with most facets of visitor services, Ken has been able to add his insight and ideas to help improve existing programs and events. Ken has shown in the past three years what volunteerism is all about!!



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# Help the Refuge without Spending a Dime

By Pauline Chvilicek, Friends of Patuxent Board Member

The next time you perform an Internet search, DO NOT use Google. Instead, go to GoodSearch.com. For every legitimate search that you complete, the Friends of Patuxent will earn one cent. While this may not sound like much, it can quickly add up.

Using GoodSearch is easy. Simply go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/>. Then, in the “enter your charity here” box, type in **Patuxent** and click on “Verify”. Select **Friends of Patuxent (Laurel, MD)** from the list. Now every legitimate search you perform will help the Refuge!

Please help us spread the word. Tell your friends, family and co-workers how they too can help support the Refuge without spending a dime.

Money earned through GoodSearch will help fund educational programs, exhibits and outreach opportunities undertaken by the Refuge and for research conducted by the Wildlife Research Center focusing on endangered species, environmental contaminants, loss of habitat, migratory birds and many other topics vital to the well being of wildlife throughout the country.

For more information on Patuxent Research  
Refuge activities, visit

<http://patuxent.fws.gov>

For more information on the research activities of  
the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, visit

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov>



Contributors are reminded that their input to the newsletter is due no later than the **5th of the month** (June 5 for the July-Sep. newsletter)! The editor(s) and the layout artist need enough time to prepare the newsletter for mailing by the 15th of the month. Special thanks are due to the many contributors who have made this publication what it has become today.

*Volunteers ↔ Friends* is published quarterly and is mailed to all volunteers and friends of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

The editor, layout artists, writers, and other helpers are all volunteers. There are some regular contributors, however we welcome and encourage all volunteers and Friends to write for the newsletter.

Send or bring comments or stories to:  
Editor, *Volunteers ↔ Friends*  
National Wildlife Visitor Center  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
Laurel, MD 20708

To become a member of the *Friends* and receive a monthly subscription to *Volunteers ↔ Friends*, send \$15 (Individual), \$20 (Family), \$50 (Contributor), or \$100 (Sponsor) to the Friends of Patuxent at the address above.

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## New at Patuxent Research Refuge

Hi, my name's Kaylen Opsata. I've come all the way from Seattle, Washington, to be a new interpretation intern here at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center. I am a recent graduate from Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment, where I majored in environmental education. I enjoy traveling to new parts of the world, meeting new people, and learning new things. I studied abroad in Peru, where I trekked through the Amazon rainforests, visited Machu Picchu, and lived with an indigenous family at 11,000 feet in the shadows of Cordillera Blanco. Last year, I spent three months in Costa Rica, where I lived in the midst of the jungle, on a self-sustained permaculture farm, surrounded by howler monkeys and screaming insects. I am very excited to be here at the Patuxent Research Refuge, and look forward to meeting, and learning, from all of you.

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Hello all! My name is Brittany West and I am one of the new Environmental Education and Interpretation Interns at the Patuxent Research Refuge. I am a recent Biology graduate from the University of Richmond and spent last fall living on Eastern Shore Maryland while interning for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. When I am not outside exploring nature you will typically find me in an art museum or by my easel (I am not good at painting, but I love the process!). I hope to learn more about interpretation and connecting the public to the wonderful natural resources around us and to the research efforts that have preserved these resources before I head back to school to get a degree in conservation biology. I look forward to gaining the most out of my time here by interacting with all of you!



Brittany and Kaylen

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For photos taken on the refuge, visit a gallery at  
[http://www.pbbase.com/photoops2/patuxent\\_research\\_refuge](http://www.pbbase.com/photoops2/patuxent_research_refuge)

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# The 2008 Waterbird Census

By Frank McGilvrey, Volunteer Biologist

With the assistance of interns and my volunteer partner, Emy Holdridge, we have been counting waterbirds on Patuxent wetlands and rivers weekly since 1997. We record the species and its numbers on each of the wetland areas. We also track the weather, particularly precipitation and winter temperatures.

The year 2008 was about normal weather-wise with no prolonged dry spells and a mild winter, with very little snow and no prolonged periods of ice.

Most waterbird species were below the ten-year long term average. These included Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, Mallards, Hooded Mergansers, Pied-billed Grebes, Belted Kingfishers, Killdeer and Great Blue Herons. Black Ducks, Ring-neck Ducks, Green Herons and Bald Eagles were near the long term average. Only Ospreys were well above the average. A brief discussion of these species follows:

**Canada Goose** – About one-half of our fall, winter and early spring population are migrants. Migrant numbers were about average for the past several years, since the rebound in the Atlantic Flyway population. The continuing decline in the resident breeding population resulted in a record summer low.

**Wood Duck** – Counts were down from 2007 and the long term average. For unknown reasons, summer counts fell to near a record low.



**Mallard** – Small increases in numbers during the spring and fall resulted in a small increase over last year's record low. The collapse in the breeding population resulted in a record summer low, almost to the vanishing point.

**Black Duck** – Blacks stayed near the long-term average, but declined somewhat from last year. Traditionally Blacks are one-half the numbers of Mallards during the winter. For the first time they were more abundant on Central Tract than Mallards. Very few are seen during the summer.

**Hooded Merganser** – After last year's record low, numbers increased in 2008, but were still below the long term average. Numbers increased during the winter, but were down the rest of the year and completely disappeared during the summer.

**Ring-neck Duck** – This is our only common wintering duck not here during the nesting season. After two years of record highs, counts fell back to the long term average. Most of the decrease was during the spring.

**Pied-billed Grebe** – Counts continued below the long term average, with a record fall low.

**Belted Kingfisher** – Counts increased substantially over last year's record low, but were still below the long term average.



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## Frog Call Count Surveys!

Believe it or not, it's that time of year again! Spring is around the corner, and the frogs will soon be emerging and calling for mates. As in past years, the biological team will be conducting call count surveys to monitor frog and toad activity on the Refuge, and we need your help! Surveys are conducted every other Thursday evening beginning at 1/2 hour after sunset and lasting two hours. Surveys involve driving to various ponds and vernal pools located on the Refuge to listen for calling activity of 12 species at each site. Refuge vehicles are provided for the surveys; interested volunteers are encouraged to partake frog call quiz prior to the first survey (new volunteers will be trained and can obtain a CD of calls) and certification to drive refuge vehicles is also encouraged. More details will be given through e-mails to interested volunteers soon.

Surveys began Thursday, February 26, 2009:

Thursday, March 12 7:12PM 7:00PM

Thursday, March 26 7:26PM 7:10PM

Thursday, April 9 7:39PM 7:25PM

Thursday, April 23 7:53PM 7:40PM

Thursday, May 7 8:06PM 7:55PM

Thursday, May 21 8:19PM 8:05PM

Thursday, June 4 8:30PM 8:15PM

Thursday, June 18 8:36PM 8:20PM

*Schedule is subject to change or cancellation, please contact Chris beforehand!*

Interested volunteers should contact Chris Wicker at [Christopher.Wicker@fws.gov](mailto:Christopher.Wicker@fws.gov).

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you there!




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## The 2008 Waterbird Census

Continued from page 4

**Shorebirds** – There was a record low for shorebirds in 2008. The Killdeer was the only common species. Killdeer are the only shorebirds that nest on Patuxent. Other species numbers fluctuate primarily based on availability of natural or artificial drawdowns on impoundments in late summer and early fall.

**Waders** – Great Blue Herons comprise about 70% of wader populations. A fall record low resulted in a substantial decrease from last year. Green Herons are the only other common species. Their numbers increased slightly over last year. They have never been recorded during the winter. Great Egrets are generally seen only in late summer and early fall. Numbers fluctuate primarily based on water levels. They are most common when we have a summer dry spell and falling water levels. There was no dry spell in 2008, so numbers were down substantially from 2007.

**Bald Eagle** – Counts declined somewhat from last year's record high, but remained above the long term average.

**Osprey** – Counts fell somewhat below last year's record but remained well above the long term average due to the continued nesting success of the pair on Cash Lake.





## Department of the Interior Secretary Salazar Visits Patuxent to Tout Economic Stimulus

By Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager

On February 9, 2009, Secretary Salazar visited Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR)/Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC) to greet staff, tour the joint refuge/research facilities, and make an impassioned statement for support of the Administration's Economic Stimulus package. Joining the Secretary of the Interior were Congressmen Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and John Sarbanes (D-MD), and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD). The Secretary's visit was highlighted by a 20 minute media event, attended by the Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, several other local papers, CNN, and the local affiliates of NBC and ABC News. The Secretary highlighted \$15 million worth of projects under the proposed stimulus package that would be directed towards PRR/PWRC, including demolition of Stickel Lab, design and engineering of a new lab for USGS and a new administrative building for the Division of Migratory Bird Management, construction of one new residence, and privatization of utility systems currently owned and operated by the refuge. Senator Cardin indicated the funding coming to Patuxent could create up to 100 jobs in the surrounding communities.

Prior to the press event, Secretary Salazar spoke to approximately 100 FWS/USGS staff at the National Wildlife Visitor Center's auditorium. Congressmen Hoyer and Sarbanes were also invited to say a few words. The Secretary emphasized he wanted to restore the public's faith in their government, draw the Department back into the spotlight, and reach out to the nation's youth to get them interested in the outdoors.

Also in attendance were acting Director Rowan Gould of the FWS and acting Director of USGS Suzette Kimball.





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# Calling All Artists: Volunteer Art Show 2009

By Mary Ann Hartnett, Volunteer & Gallery Coordinator

The John Hollingsworth Art Gallery at the National Wildlife Visitor Center will be reserved for the month of **August 2009** for a special display of the art work of the current volunteers of the Patuxent Research Refuge. Art work can be displayed on the wall, in one of the glass cases or on pedestals behind stanchions in the lobby. **We want to see your flat work (sketches, paintings, photography, etc), needlework, carvings, castings, pottery, basketry, jewelry, etc. that has a wildlife (native or non-native species) or habitat theme.** Artists should adhere to the same guidelines that our wildlife artists follow concerning subject matter. Acceptable themes would be wildlife, nature, and/or environmental conservation issues, endangered, threatened or native species, along with wetlands, oceans, woodlands, prairies or other habitats that are recognized as symbols of earth's vital resources. Examples of unacceptable subject matter would be domestic animals, buildings, landscapes that do not support the mission of the Refuge System, images which reflect religious figures or overtones whether blatantly or subtly, or images which may have political ramifications. Art work to be hung on the wall should be matted, framed and wired for hanging. Pieces will be attached to the wall by curtain hooks or traditional picture hooks depending on the weight of the piece (there is plywood behind the carpeted surface). Plan to provide a title for your art work if appropriate, along with your name in a form that can be displayed with your art work if it is not signed.

The wall has six panels that are 69" high x 63" wide. The display area of the large glass case is 41" high x 59½" wide x 23½" deep. It has two adjustable glass shelves. The display area of the small glass case is 32½" high x 47½" wide x 20" deep. It does not have shelves, but can accommodate small pedestals for display. Both glass cases can be secured. A large carving could be displayed in the lobby if a pedestal is provided for it.

I would like to begin to plan the layout for the exhibit in July. **Please call 301 474-5572 or e-mail me, [maryannhartnett@netscape.net](mailto:maryannhartnett@netscape.net) with information about your art work – subject matter, material, size, and anything special you would like me to know about it by July 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest.** To ensure that there is adequate space, I am asking that each artist initially submit only two works. If space is still available after the works are hung/displayed, additional pieces may be added. I will let you know at a later date when you should bring your art work to the Visitor Center for the exhibit.



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# What's the deal with the CCP?

By Jenn Hill, Refuge Staff

You may have heard grumblings of this acronym as of late, “the CCP,” and wondered what new-fangled form of bureaucracy was making its way down the line. Well, the CCP, or the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, is an effort (and a rather massive one regarding staff time) to lay out a framework for each refuge in order to better manage its resources. The CCP process was initiated with the 1997 Refuge Improvement Act. Do you need a history refresher regarding this? I did, so let's review.

First off, it is important to remember the MISSION of the National Wildlife Refuge System, which is:

“..to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.”

Also, prior to the 1997 “ACT” there was other legislative “gov-speak” of its kind.....

.....the 1934 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the 1934 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (aka the Duck Stamp), the 1937 Pittman-Robertson Act, the 1962 Refuge Recreation Act, the 1964 Wilderness Act, the 1966 Refuge Administration Act, the 1966 Endangered Species Preservation Act, the 1969 Endangered Species Conservation Act, the 1973 Endangered Species Act, and eventually the **1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act**. Until the latter, the refuge system was referred to in *These American Lands*, as the following:

“Of all the difficulties attending the refuge systems today, none is more onerous than the lack of any single overall guiding body of law for its administration. It is the only major federal land entity that does not have such law. The National Park System acquired its direction with passage of the Organic Act of 1916; the National Wilderness Preservation System was *created* by its law, the Wilderness Act of 1964; the national forests received the National Forest Management Act of 1976; and the Bureau of Land Management's land was given the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. By comparison, the refuge system basically operates under the administration of a loose and confusing amalgam of individual laws and legal authorities, fragments of responsibility that never quite come together to produce a coherent management program.”


Whew! Well, fear no more, Refuge comrades. With the Refuge Improvement Act came direction, guidance and mandates for each refuge to complete its own CCP. Although the mention of “Acts” and “Mandates” gives me the willies, I do find some consolation in this CCP idea. If you have ever worked at a refuge like Patuxent, then you may understand why. Patuxent like several other urban refuges, comes with a whole array of “issues” and it can be quite confusing not only to the staff who work there, but especially to the public; about what we stand for, what we do, WHY we exist, etc. The CCP is a serious, and applicable, attempt to organize and highlight the “what” and “why's” of each refuge. The CCP will provide the refuge with a 15-year management plan specific to the unit (Patuxent) to conserve fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats and provide opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreational uses. It incorporates all stakeholders and tries to create a consistency in management. And consistency is what we need, we as the staff, we as the volunteers, we as the public and most importantly

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## News from the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center ([www.pwrc.usgs.gov](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov))

### U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Presents Plenary Talk at First Anatidae Workshop in China

USGS researchers Diann Prosser (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center) and John Takekawa (Western Ecological Research Center) were invited to present a plenary presentation at the first international Anatidae (waterfowl) workshop in China. The workshop held on December 12-18 2008 in Beijing, summarized the Anatidae conservation and monitoring status in China, the establishing of the China Anatidae Network (CAN), and strengthening international cooperation and information exchange in Northeast Asia. Diann Prosser represented USGS by presenting findings of satellite telemetry studies on waterfowl from Poyang Lake, southeastern China, one of Asia's most important wintering sites for waterbirds and potential hotspot for influenza transmission between wild and domestic birds. While in Beijing, Prosser also met with Chinese Academy of Sciences and China Agricultural University collaborators to continue ongoing avian influenza research. 

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### What's the deal with the CCP?

Continued from page 8

we as the resource. Above all, the CCP holds us responsible for our actions, or lack thereof, to the American public. A dicey deal, I know, but as servants to the public, it is an honor on behalf of wildlife.

If you are still reading this, congratulations! Hopefully you have gained a wee-bit of insight on the CCP and how this relates to refuges nationwide. Perhaps you will be engaged in the planning process and "issues" that face us as we embark on our own CCP process. As of now, Patuxent is still in its preplanning phase. We have a little way to go to the actual CCP planning process. But it is important for you to know where we are along the way. To date, Patuxent has engaged in a Transportation Study and a Visitor Services Review, both of which will be used to help develop our CCP. We will soon be undergoing a Habitat Management Plan which will also be used in the CCP.

So when you hear "CCP" and a sigh in the same sentence you may understand why, it is a big undertaking, but an important one! If everyone takes ownership in the process then the plan will be a huge success and ultimately help hold the ground for our precious resources – the land, plants and animals for future generations of Americans.

#### References:

*These American Lands*, Dyan Zaslowsky & T.H. Watkins, 1994.

National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 

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# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH ART GALLERY

By Nicole Heaton, Volunteer

## April

Abstract This!, a collection of abstract paintings and 3-D art from about 20 members of the Laurel Art Guild, will be on display throughout April in the John Hollingsworth Art Gallery.

The varying works of art feature watercolors, ceramics, collages, acrylics, beads, pastels, and more. Demonstrating the personalities of a diverse set of artists, this themed exhibit will be a fun visual feast for the public. While the artists have been encouraged to stretch their boundaries, viewers have the opportunity to learn more about the abstract art style.

Founded in 1967, the Laurel Art Guild is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the fine arts. Membership consists of both professional and amateur artists who express themselves through a variety of mediums. The organization promotes public appreciation of the fine arts primarily through community involvement, and over the past thirty years has made scholarship fund donations to local high schools for graduating seniors that are continuing their studies in the Fine Arts.

## June

Wildlife artist Diane Ford will display her work in the John Hollingsworth Art Gallery throughout the month of June.

Ms. Ford, a lifelong resident of Bethesda, MD, creates intricate drawings and paintings of wildlife in nature. From the age of 7, Ms. Ford was an avid artist, influenced by the beauty and serenity of nature. With the encouragement of her parents, she pursued art at an early age. By the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, she won her first artistic award, "School Artist of the Year."

During high school, Ms. Ford began experimenting with pencil, charcoal, and acrylic painting. She supplemented her education by volunteering at a local nature center, working side-by-side with senior naturalists and producing a growing list of subject material. When Ms. Ford began college, she began working in oils, and in recent years she became interested in the art of paper-mache.

Today, Ms. Ford exhibits at numerous festivals and has donated several pieces of art for charitable causes. Over the course of 23 years, she has developed 61 sketchbooks for a total of more than 27,450 sketches.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the creative artwork of the Laurel Art Guild as well as Diane Ford at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.



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# The 2008 Migration of the Junior Ducks

Mary Ann Hartnett, Volunteer & Gallery Coordinator

With the assistance of volunteer Bill Todd, the first, second and third place winning entries to the Maryland Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program traveled to 13 of the 23 counties in the State of Maryland during 2008. The migration started at the Ward Museum of Wildlife Art in Wicomico County in May, and after stops at the J. Millard Tawes Historical Museum in Somerset and the Wildlife Trust of North America Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Queen Anne's Counties they headed west across the bay. First they flew by the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary in Prince George's County, and then all the way to the Black Hill Regional Park Visitor Center in Montgomery County. By July 28<sup>th</sup> they had reached the home of the Frederick Arts Council Cultural Arts Center in Frederick County. No stopping the westward migration now, so it was onward to the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & Visitor's Bureau. Two weeks later they arrived at the Sidling Hill Exhibit Center in Washington County. By September, a swing through Carroll and Harford Counties found them at the Bear Branch Nature Center and the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. The Ducks also made special visits to the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (Dorchester Co.) during their October festival and the annual Waterfowl Festival in Easton (Talbot Co.). While on the way home to Laurel, they stopped over at the Howard County Conservancy in Woodstock, the Marshy Point Nature Center in Baltimore County, the Montgomery County Executive Office Building in Rockville, and the Prince George's County Court House in Upper Marlboro.

The goal for the migration is to provide as many people as possible in Maryland an opportunity to see the artwork and learn about the Junior Duck Stamp Program. While there is no way of knowing how many people view this art work while it is on display, we have always received positive feedback from the contacts at the exhibit sites. Several sites wanted the art work for several months, well beyond the regular two week stay, and most sites request being included in the next tour.

The length of the migration is determined by the availability of the art work for display. The tour usually begins in May after the judging of the entries and awarding of the prizes. By late December, it is time to gather up the art work and return it to the owners before the entries for next year's contest begin to arrive. If you know of a location that should be considered for a stop-over during next year's migration please contact [maryannhartnett@netscape.net](mailto:maryannhartnett@netscape.net)

For more information about the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest go to [www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck).



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# Largest Friends Conference Brings Hundreds to Capital City

From Refuge Update Jan/Feb 2009 Vol.6, No 1

*Harlan Tucker, Pauline Chvilicek, Emy Holdridge and Michelle Donlan represented Patuxent Research Refuge and the Friends of Patuxent at the 2009 National Wildlife Refuge System Friends Conference hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.*



People who never go to a national conference don't realize the enormity of the Refuge Friends movement," says Nancy Menasco, president of Friends of Red River NWR in Louisiana. "The enthusiasm of the people who attend and the quality of the speakers are extraordinary. Everything is so well planned."

Planning for the 2009 National Friends Conference was indeed key as nearly 500 people came together February 21-23 in Washington, DC, for the largest such conference in the history of the Refuge Friends movement. Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA), the conference featured nearly two dozen training sessions and special forums, all under the theme, "Friends Unite!"

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## Largest Friends Conference Brings Hundreds to Capital City

Continued from page 12

Nearly 300 Friends representing 230 national wildlife refuges, 161 Friends organizations and every state except Wyoming joined about 200 representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and speakers at a conference that focused on such issues as climate change, citizen science programs and understanding the business of Friends.

Sometimes, as you're working in the field, you can feel the great bureaucracy of the federal government pressing down on you," says Menasco. "When you come to a conference like this, you can be with people who are like minded, who share your vision for what the Refuge System can be, and it is rejuvenating."

Training sessions were offered in three tracks: Refuge System resource challenges; tools, programs and strategies for success; and Friends capacity building. Among the topics that Menasco and others found especially useful were how to develop and energize a board of directors and how to recruit and retain members. Other sessions delved into the implications of climate change for the Refuge System and how local land use decisions impact national wildlife refuges.

"Our national wildlife refuges are canaries in the coal mine when it comes to pressing issues like climate change, competition for water and combating invasive species," said Evan Hirsche, president of the NWRA and Jim Kurth, deputy chief of the Refuge System, in issuing the conference invitation. "Fortunately, Friends have always risen to the occasion during hard times."

"What I always like best about conferences like these is the networking possibility," concluded Menasco. "You come away with ideas from people throughout the Refuge System and from other Friends groups. You get a sense of being part of something much larger than your organization."



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# Staffers and Volunteers attend the Annual MAEOE Environmental Education Conference

By Dennis Hartnett, Environmental Education Coordinator

Staffers Nell Baldacchino and Amy Shoop and Volunteers Dennis and MaryAnn Hartnett and Joe Baldacchino had the opportunity to attend the annual MAEOE (Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoors Education) Conference held at the Clarion Resort in Ocean City, Maryland. The theme of the conference was Shades of Green, Exploring Diversity in Our Environment.

Representing the Patuxent Research Refuge, Nell, Amy, Dennis, MaryAnn and Joe manned a booth at the conference and networked with a number of environment and outdoor educators, sharing information and ideas. The Patuxent team also attended a number of workshops on some of the following environmental topics:

- Global Warming
- Bird Study
- Natural Resources Curriculum
- Native American perspectives
- Bio diversity
- Air pollution
- Schoolyard Habitat
- Forestry Studies

The workshops were interesting and informative and hopefully in the near future the team can incorporate new ideas into the interpretive and environmental education programs at Patuxent

Amy, Dennis and Nell also sat in on an introduction to the Certified Environmental Educator Program which is a new initiative for training and certifying Environmental Educators in the state of Maryland.

Amy also had the opportunity to attend the Flying Wild Educator Workshop sponsored by the University of Maryland Environmental Studies Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center where she learned about ways to get children and adults actively involved with Birding programs.

In summary, the conference gave the staffers and volunteers a chance to meet other educators in our field and to explore a vast wealth of information and knowledge given at the workshops and through extensive networking with others in the field of interpretation and environmental education.



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## Kids' Fishing Day!

Saturday, June 13th

9AM – 1PM FREE

Join us for fishing demonstrations and activities. Catch & release only.



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## Remember Earth Day

April 22



Do something nice  
for the planet!



Volunteers ↔ Friends  
**Friends of Patuxent**  
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## We invite you to join ...

Friends of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Patuxent Research Refuge, Inc. is a designated Section 501(c)(3) public charity. It is a membership organization whose mission is to financially support the research of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the environmental education, outreach, and recreation missions at the Patuxent Research Refuge. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our **2009** Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number for the **Central Maryland** area is **63960** and Maryland Charitable Organization Registration number is **2348**.

Your mailing label denotes your membership expiration date. We appreciate your prompt renewal.

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

- Newsletter
- 10% discount in our Wildlife Images bookstore and other area refuge bookstores.
- Attendance at members-only functions
- Participation in on-site educational programs
- Sense of accomplishment in providing many opportunities for wildlife-related recreation, education, and research

## Friends of Patuxent Membership Application

Please mail, along with a check, to:

Friends of Patuxent  
 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
 Laurel, MD 20708-4027  
 (make check out to “Friends of Patuxent”)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member  Renewal

Annual Membership Rates

Individual (\$15/yr)  Family (\$20/yr)

Contributor (\$50/yr)  Sponsor (\$100/yr)

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