

Volunteers ↔ Friends



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

October-December 2009

www.friendspwrc.org

Vol. 20 No. 4



Can Climate Cling?

By Jennifer Hill, Patuxent staff

Can Climate Cling was the theme of Patuxent Research Refuge's 7th annual Habitat Camp. For the past seven years, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD and the Friends of Patuxent have partnered with Smothers Elementary School in

Washington, DC to get urban 4th and 5th grade students involved in the outdoors, focusing on habitats near their home and school. The camp has been a huge success resulting in repeat campers and their siblings. The main focus of the camp is to encourage urban

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Duck Traps

By Jeanna Beard, Biology intern

You may notice while visiting the Patuxent Research Refuge a few funny things floating in the water. These 6'x 3' floating rafts are actually traps to capture the Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) in a safe and humane manner. There are only six traps set on the entire 12,841 acre Refuge, so it's a treat



Wood Duck

to discover one! Luckily for visitors, three of them are visible from designated public areas. There is one along the tram route behind a small island on Lake Redington (take the tram tour to see this one!), one on the eastern side of the peninsula on Cash Lake, and one on North Tract in the southern portion of Lake Allen. The other three are in ponds and marshes on Central and North Tracts, in locations not open to the public.

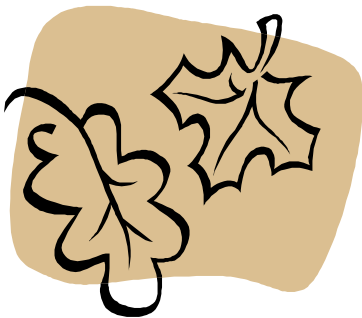
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New at Patuxent Research Refuge

Hi everyone! My name is Kristen Jabanoski and I am one of the new Environmental Education and Interpretation interns at the Patuxent Research Refuge. I am a recent Marine Biology graduate from Eckerd College, though I am originally from Massachusetts. I enjoy being outdoors, hiking, scuba diving, and traveling. I spent a semester studying abroad in Australia, where I visited the rainforest and the outback and dived on the Great Barrier Reef. I also spent a summer working on deepwater coral ecology research for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I would like to teach and conduct conservation-relevant research one day. I hope to learn more



about environmental interpretation and education here at the Patuxent Research Refuge before returning to school. I am very excited to be here and look forward to meeting all of you!

Hi! My name's Christine Thurber and I am joining the Patuxent team as an Environmental Education and Interpretation intern. I recently graduated from Assumption



College in Worcester, MA where I studied biology and environmental science. I've worked with wetland scientists for the past two years, and spent the summer studying harmful algal blooms at the University of Maryland and Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. I loved the area so much I wanted to stay! I've got a long history of working with kids, including summers at Boy and Girl Scout camps and earning my Gold Award in Girl Scouts by designing and presenting hiking safety booklets for children. I love being outdoors, taking pictures, hiking, camping, kayaking, and rock climbing. Working for Fish and

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Contributors are reminded that their input to the newsletter is due no later than the **25th of the month** (i.e. December 5th for Jan-Mar 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 monthly 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 Wildlife Research Center, at the address above.

Why I Do What I Do

By Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager

I am often asked how someone like me - who seems so much better suited to be a composer of classical music or a scuba gear repairman or a child actor - became a hotshot refuge manager, and one of the 550 most powerful people in the country. While it is true I flirted with those other career paths - in fact, I was actually enrolled in Classical Music Studies at the University of Virginia located in downtown Peshtigo, Wisconsin, with the intent of becoming a classical music composer, until realizing all the best tunes were already taken (Beethoven's Fifth, Swan Lake,



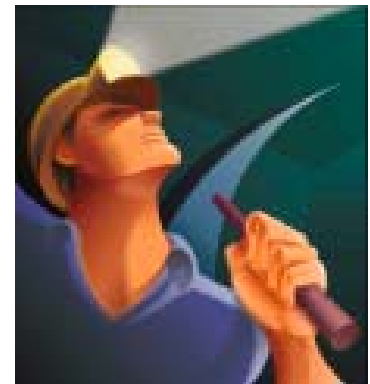
Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, etc.) - I really owe my career in natural resource conservation to the summers I spent between my college years working in the butter mines of northern Wisconsin.

You see, it was there that I witnessed firsthand the blatant disregard for and abuse of our bountiful natural resources, such

as the seemingly endless depths of Wisconsin's largest and purest butter mines. I was a party to the wanton destruction of this once plentiful resource, all the time happily accepting my paychecks from the Breckenridge Butter Mining Co. Why did I stay all those years, as I watched those deep and golden shafts of nature's perfect food depleted, despoiled, and destroyed? Maybe it was the incredible salary that poured into my bank account, due to the hazard and overtime pay I reaped as I toiled thousands of feet below the surface of Wisconsin's prime farmland, chiseling out great globules of pure, natural, unadulterated subterranean butter. Maybe I bought into the now admittedly somewhat "highbrow" motto of the Breckenridge Butter Mining Co. - "Providing only the best butter for only the best people." Maybe it was knowing how others envied me - fighter pilots, brain surgeons, pro football quarterbacks being a member of the elite workforce that extracted smooth, creamy, cool butter - formed thousands of years earlier in the pre-Starbuckian seas of prehistoric Wisconsin, when still attached by land bridge to the nearby state of Iowa.

Regardless of why I stayed, it finally ate too deeply into my conscience. As the mother lodes decreased in quantity and quality, as butter recovery measures became more extreme - from the

initial ease of underground steam shovels scooping out tons at a time to the days of pick-axes and hand shovels to the most



desperate measures of using high-pressure water lines to blast out the last remnants clinging to the nooks and crannies of the shafts and caverns - it hit me that this was no way to be treating the bounty of one of the Earth's most miraculous natural resources. And we had treated it with such disdain, such a lack of respect and dignity. And when technology came to the rescue - discovering that butter can actually be manufactured from the milk of mammals such as cows, goats, and muskrats - the butter mines were left behind - simply abandoned with no regard for reclamation, or even given a decent good-bye.

It was then I decided to devote my life to make amends for the sins of my past - for my part in

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“Can Climate Cling?”

Continued from p. 1

youth to become comfortable with wildlife and wildlife habitats they may encounter near their home and elsewhere, with the hope that they will become good stewards and thus Habitat Heroes!

With all of the negative hype surrounding climate change, this year's students set out to determine if there is any hope for our climate and the animals that share our world. What was the discovery? Read on to see...

Creatively named teams were established: the Drip Drops, Polar Melts, and Ozone Burners. Throughout the week these teams of children worked together and explored wetlands, meadows, and forests at the Refuge to learn about plants and animals that share our local community. Through team building games, guest speakers, habitat tours, art projects, and a variety of wildlife related activities (both at Patuxent and Smothers) the children were able to experience nature firsthand and discover their role in helping this world of ours survive. Instead of focusing on the "gloom and doom" of human interaction with the environment, we chose to focus on the good that humans are already doing to make a positive impact on the environment. So, what good do we humans do? Well, the students at Smothers walk to school! They

turn off the lights when they leave a room and turn the water off when they are brushing their teeth. In addition to the good they already do, they discovered new ways to help Mother Earth. They learned what a "carbon footprint" means and that their school has new energy efficient windows to help minimize their carbon footprint. Students also identified new actions their school could take, like recycling, to further reduce their footprint. Signs saying "Be Bright! Turn out the Light!" and "The Bay Starts Here" were created and put up near light switches and water faucets around the school and the students' homes.

In addition to all of this, students created climate change and habitat related tiles to adhere to planter boxes on Minnesota Avenue as part of a District greening initiative. These tiles beautifully illustrate the importance of habitats for both people and wildlife.

So what was the discovery? From endangered species and recycling, bananas and eagles, cars and nitrogen, everything is connected. Through all of this, the students, who are now Habitat Heroes, determined that YES, Climate Can Cling, with help from everyone making small everyday changes in the way people live and interact with nature and each other. ♻️

“Duck Traps”

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The stages of trapping Wood Ducks include construction of the trap, "pre-baiting," monitoring, baiting, capturing, and sampling. The traps are built with pine lumber using 6' long 2-by-4s and 3' long planks, creating a base platform. The platforms are anchored to float in the impoundment with no wire "walls" or mesh "roofs." The ducks will become accustomed to eating the coarse cracked corn bait thrown into the platform. After a week, the wire sides and netting will be installed on the traps with the front and back of the platform remaining open. Again, the ducks will become accustomed to the platform now with walls and roof attached. By mid-August, the front of the platform will have a trap door installed, and the back door will shut, thus trapping the ducks looking for corn to eat.

Every sunrise and sunset, US Fish & Wildlife service biologists and interns are capturing and banding the Wood Ducks for the benefit of Region 5's Avian Influenza Surveillance Program. Dr. Samantha Gibbs, Avian Disease Coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Management, is currently conducting a study comparing blood, esophageal, and cloacal samples to detect Avian Influenza (also known as Bird Flu and H5 or H7 strains).

If you want to learn more about this project, please contact Senior Refuge Biologist, Holliday Obrecht, at (301) 497-5587. 📞

For photos taken on the refuge, visit a gallery at
http://www.pbase.com/photoops2/patuxent_research_refuge



*The young
pine knows
the secrets
of the
ground.
The old pine
knows the
stars.*

-- Anonymous



Something's Fishy!

By Jessica Helmbold, Environmental Education intern

Our lakes and streams are an interesting ecosystem. It is like they are filled with what seems to be alien life forms. However, one large group of these alien-like life forms is the fishes. Fish can be as small as a minnow or as large as a channel catfish, but they all have common characteristics. It is these characteristics that make fish unique and help them adapt to life in the water and we are going to explore some of them.

Of course people can swim, but there is a point at which we can no longer stay under water. We have to come to the surface for air. How can fish stay underwater all the time? Where do they get their air from? This brings us to one characteristic that makes fish unique. We have lungs, but fish have gills and they work differently. Gills allow fish to take oxygen out of the water.

So, now we know that fish have gills to help them breathe underwater. Since fish are constantly swimming they need something to help them stay afloat. Fish have an organ called a "swim bladder." It fills with air to help the fish float and it also allows the fish to ascend and descend in the water. As the fish swims deeper the pressure on their bodies increases and the swim bladder helps their body compensate for that.

Finally we will learn about the fish's sixth sense, the "lateral line system." Fish have to watch out for predators and find their own food and they can accomplish all this by using their lateral line system. The system allows the fish to pick up vibrations made by things in the water, whether it is another fish or a fisherman's lure hitting the water. Even the tiniest of movements can be detected by a fish. This could mean avoiding being a shark's dinner or finding dinner. This is important for life in the water, because sound doesn't travel as well through the water, so fish rely less on hearing and more on their lateral line system. Just imagine if you were swimming underwater at the pool and your mom was trying to tell you to get out, do you think you would be able to hear her? This is where having a lateral line system might help.

Fish as we have seen are pretty unique animals that have adapted to life in the water. Now we know a little more about those adaptations. Take some time to watch fish in their native habitat and see some of these adaptations for yourself.

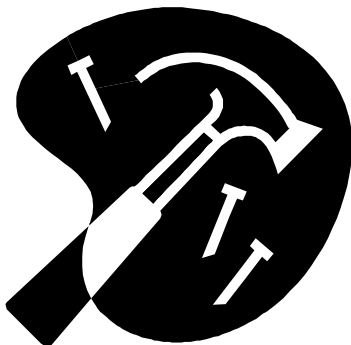
Jessica's Note: This article was originally written for Outdoor Indiana magazine. It was intended to be a way for kids to explore fish adaptations. ✨

Just Your Average Day at North Tract

By Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager

On the morning of August 5th, I got to be away from my desk for a few hours, helping with a "Weed Warriors" event at the North Tract, pulling Mile-a-Minute, just off the shoulder of Wildlife Loop. I was there with Refuge Biologist Chris Wicker, Visitor Services Supervisor Nell Baldacchino, our two biological interns for the summer, Sara and Jeanna, and a handful of volunteers from the Department of the Interior and the National Wildlife Federation.

En route to the site, we met a large tractor-trailer, heading off the Refuge, with an empty flatbed. "Equipment just got dropped off at Bailey Bridge," I said to myself, as I knew contractors were on-site for flood event repairs.



Then, a short time later, I noticed our refuge tractor and batwing mower go by on the road. "Buddy heading out to do some mowing -

probably at Blue Heron Pond, for goose season," I said again, to myself. Then, fifteen minutes later a large dump truck rumbled by, followed by the tractor-trailer again, this time loaded down with a Grade-All, a piece of heavy equipment used for moving rip-rap and other such material.

Then, one of our YCC vans rolled by, on their way to a work project, probably to another patch of the invading plants we were actively pulling.

At this point, I told a couple of the volunteers working alongside of me, who had noticed all the traffic - especially the heavy equipment, "Honest - we are NOT building a city back there on the Refuge somewhere. We just have a lot of activity going on."

As the morning progressed, we saw a MD Dept of Agriculture truck go by, on his way to check Emerald Ashborer traps, and a Secret Service van headed to Range 10 for some sharpshooting practice.

All this action! From one spot on the Refuge! That does not even include the BG&E contractor I knew was doing vegetation control under their power lines, or the firm contracted by Fort Meade to scout additional monitoring well sites for groundwater contamination

sampling that I knew were roaming around somewhere on North Tract, just not near us! To top it off, upon returning to the Visitor Contact Station, we were greeted by the biggest Fed Ex



trailer canted in the parking lot, making a delivery for Federal Highways Administration staff overseeing the Bailey Bridge repair work.

That particular day was a hot and humid one and we even had 26 visitors check in to connect with nature in various ways!

My point is, as you can probably guess by now, that our North Tract is very often a BEEHIVE of activity, action, and issues! There is as much to keep track of up there as anywhere on the Refuge, and probably a wider variety, too. So don't go up to North Tract, expecting to get away from it all. It offers a unique slice of refuge life that everyone should experience now and then. ✨

Lost Languages & Dying Breeds

By Jennifer Hill, Patuxent staff

There have been a lot of changes for the six or so years I have been working at Patuxent. Some good, some not so good, but change is inevitable. Even so, one of the changes I notice just doesn't sit right with me. It is the observation that there is a dying breed of true field folks and a lost language regarding the natural world. I listen to my supervisor's stories of the "good ole days" and think "HOW COOL," and then I listen to the newer, younger staff and notice this huge disconnect. Fearful of venturing out onto the trails without a cell phone and an army of bug spray. Unsure about catching a crayfish or knowing how to identify an otter slide. Oblivious to the daily maple-leafing of the geese as they come "home to the lake" each evening in the fall. No more talk of BEKI's* or carrying capacity. Unable to age and sex a deer by pulling a jaw or to identify waterfowl by their wings.

Now, I am fully aware that people progress and things change, but there is an extremely valuable language that is being lost in our

modern society - the language of a biologist, of a Muir, Abbey or Leopold. Imagine if these younger generations knew the composition of a meadow like they know the intricacies of what their iPhone can do - how much better would natural resource professionals be able to connect the general public to the resources! Imagine taking all the time spent text messaging and twittering and going instead to wade in a river or just sit quietly by oneself in the forest. Do people still know how to do these things? In college it was mandatory to read Leopold, and highly suggested to follow suit with Muir, Carson, etc. Sometimes I wonder if people even read books anymore.

I am not a biologist by degree, or a product of the good ole' boy era; I am a dinosaur of my time who spent my years growing up playing outside (if I was inside it was because I was sick or being punished). I am a visitor services professional who tries to learn from that "dying breed." I try to get involved with those in the field - the trappers, biologists,

firefighters, scientists, the hunters, and anglers. I love to work with the public and engage people in our natural resources and I know it is important to meet them on their level, but lately I find myself struggling more and more to get to whatever level that might be. I guess the same is true on the flipside. But it saddens me to watch as folks come into natural resource related fields and not take an initiative to get out into the field. They do not seem interested in understanding the NATURAL world around them. Is it uncomfortable, is it boring??

As I watch this new breed that will one day run the Fish and Wildlife Service and other natural resource related entities, I feel like I now belong in an exhibit, just to the right of the dinosaurs, because I'm so out of my time. I can only imagine what my mentors might feel and what Leopold would have to say about this!

*BEKI - Belted Kingfisher
(*Ceryle alcyon*)✱

Patuxent Research Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) is a 15-year plan designed to develop proposed actions that best achieve the Refuge's purposes, attain the vision and goals developed for Refuges, contribute to the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, address key challenges, issues and relevant mandates, and are consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management.

We invite you to learn more, get involved and provide feedback throughout our planning process. For more information go to http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/ccp_mainpage.html. ✱

The 2009 Patuxent Waterbird Nesting Season

By Frank McGilvrey - Volunteer/biologist

This was the 13th year of intensive monitoring of nesting water birds on the Patuxent Research Refuge. We had, perhaps, our poorest waterfowl nesting season since intensive management began in the early 1960s. There is no adequate explanation for the decline. Brood rearing conditions were excellent last year. We do have the highest red fox population that I have ever seen in my 25 years on the Refuge.

For unknown reasons, spring pair counts were not as representative of nesting attempts for some species this year. There were 120 pairs of Canada Geese recorded, the fewest since 1975. This compares with 270 pairs in 1999.

We recorded 64 pairs of Wood Ducks, the same as last year, and down from the peak of 82 in 2005. We had nine pairs of Hooded Mergansers which is up slightly from last year. We recorded 21 pairs of Mallards, the same as last year, but down from the peak of 63 in 1999. Only one pair of Black Ducks was recorded.

Nesting starts were at or near record lows for all species. In 1998, we recorded 180 Canada Goose nests; this year we found 96 nests, of which 49 hatched.

Rearing success continued to be poor. For the first time since 1961, no goose broods were produced in the Headquarters area. There were five young reared on South Tract for the first success in four years.

Wood Duck nesting was the biggest surprise. In 2008, hatching success in nest boxes was the highest since 2005. We estimated 130 ducklings reached flight. Yet in 2009, nest starts in boxes declined to 41, the lowest since the 2002 drought year. The peak was 71 in 2005. The decline in the last two years has been entirely due to the reduced number of yearlings in the nesting population. Yearlings normally comprise 30% to 40% of the nesting population. This year, they comprised only 24% of hens caught, almost as low as the worst of the drought years. We had a nine-year-old hen this year, the first time we caught one that old. Brood rearing conditions were excellent with water levels on most impoundments at full pool throughout the rearing season. An estimated 160 ducklings reached flight age. We estimated that eight broods were from cavities.

Only one Hooded Merganser was found in a box, which is a record low. Two cavity hatched broods

were seen. It is unlikely that any Hooded Mergansers have been reared in the last three years.

Mallard nesting experienced a total collapse. We only found five nests, and all failed. For the first time since impoundment construction began in the 1950s, no broods were seen. No nests or broods of Black Ducks were recorded.

The colony of Great Blue Herons on Emy's pond continued to increase, to 14 nests this year. Most of the trees are alive, making it difficult to determine success, but I believe a minimum of seven nests fledged 10 young.

We saw a brood of two Pied-billed Grebes almost ready to fly. This was the third brood in 13 years.

The pair of Ospreys on Cash Lake was again successful, rearing two young.

Other species using nest boxes included two Grey Squirrels, five Tree Swallows, nine Carolina Wrens, three Crested Flycatchers, and two Bluebirds. There was only one attempted Starling nest. It is surprising that this bird, which was such a nuisance in the 1950s and 60s, is not presently a problem in the Wood Duck boxes. ✨

2009 Fall Events at Patuxent Research Refuge's National Wildlife Visitor Center

All events are FREE (with the exception of tram tours and refreshments). Donations to the Friends of Patuxent are greatly appreciated. No registration is necessary. The Visitor Center is located on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 197. Please advise us of any special needs so that we may accommodate you. Call 301-497-5763 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for more information.

Honey Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 10th

10am - 4pm

Join the Maryland State Beekeepers Association as they celebrate the Annual Maryland Honey Harvest Festival! Discover the busy world of bees and other pollinators while enjoying arts and crafts, honey tastings, candle making demonstrations, Refuge habitat tram tours, and much more!



Federal Duck Stamp National Judging

Friday, October 16th & Saturday, October 17th

Judging from 10:00 am to approximately noon each day.

The judging of the nation's oldest, most prestigious wildlife art competition - The Federal Duck

Stamp Art Contest - will be held for the first time at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. The contest is free and open to the public. The winning design will grace the 2010-2011 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp or "Duck Stamp." Besides enjoying waterfowl art, visitors can explore habitats on trails and guided tram tours and view special exhibits and demonstrations. For more information regarding the Duck Stamp, go to <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps>.

Patuxent Wildlife Festival

Saturday, October 24th

10am - 3pm

View live animals close up, learn about cutting-edge wildlife research, participate in children's activities, explore the world of research, and view endangered whooping cranes on behind-the-scenes research tours of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Refuge habitat tram tours and refreshments will be available courtesy of Friends of Patuxent.



2009 winning Duck Stamp
by Joshua Spies

Duck Stamp Reception

In conjunction with the Duck Stamp Judging, there will be a reception on Friday, October 16, 6:30 - 10:00 PM sponsored by Ducks Unlimited, inc. Enjoy refreshments (open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, Maryland oysters) and a close-up look at competing waterfowl art. There will also be live and silent auctions of artwork, waterfowl-themed items, hunting trips and more. All proceeds benefit Ducks Unlimited, Inc. world leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation. For more information visit <http://www.ducks.org/states/46/events/event19546.html> or contact Josh Voelker at 410-827-8185 or via e-mail at JVoelker@ducks.org. ✨

“Why”

Continued from p. 3

the annihilation of the "underground butter seas of the Midwest" as Antarctica's poet laureate Thars Skilgvoldsen-sen called them. So, I took up Wildlife Ecology in my last two years at the UV-Peshtigo, and a short 21 years later became refuge manager at Patuxent Research Refuge. While it is too late to bring back the butter mines, I find solace in knowing I am making a difference in the conservation of natural resources. I am proud to say the populations of saber-toothed shad have increased in Patuxent's streams since I have become the primary steward of the refuge's resources. We have recently documented two new colonies of monkey bats at the refuge, and we have stopped the wholesale poaching of Patuxent's virgin stands of Potato Trees.

I still feel shame when I think of the cold, hollow mine shafts, in northern Wisconsin, where some say you can still hear the echoes of Mr. Breckenridge's voice yelling, "Just one more pound of butter, boys, just one more pound!" But my shame lessens, when I picture a monkey bat roosting in a Potato Tree near the shores of a stream teeming with saber-toothed shad. I feel, finally, I am making a difference! ✨

“New”

Continued from p. 2

Wildlife Services has been a dream of mine, so I'm very excited for this opportunity, which will help me figure out what course of study I'd like to pursue in graduate school. I am looking forward to meeting with and learning from all of you!

I come from Vermont where I was raised to be an avid outdoorsman. I took my passion for the outdoors to the University of Vermont and in May of this past spring (2009) graduated with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. During my time at the University of Vermont, I spent several summers working for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department as a Natural Resources instructor at the Green Mountain Conservation Camps. I also spent some time as a Hunter Education instructor when my class work would allow. I have always had an interest in both game management and environmental education and am excited to be apart of the internship program here at Patuxent.

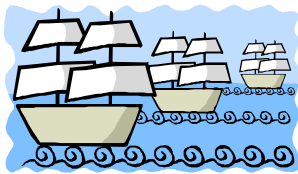
Timothy R. Duclos

Hello Patuxent! My name is Jessi Tapp and I am from Nebo, Kentucky - a VERY rural town in the western part of the state. I

just graduated from Murray State University with a bachelor's in Wildlife Biology. It took me a while to decide on a major; I had thought I wanted to be a veterinarian at first. Then I switched to forestry for a year. I have always had a strong interest in biology and anything related to the outdoors. Once I decided on Wildlife Biology, I became very active within our student chapter of the Wildlife Society and have loved every second of it. As for the future, I am hoping to begin graduate school next fall and someday become a Wildlife Biologist with a focus on either herps, water birds, or wetland/bottomland ecosystems in general. Though city life is a struggle for me, I am glad to be a part of this refuge, which has such a unique and interesting history.

My name is Bryan Jones, I recently graduated from Lynchburg College with an Environmental Science degree. I am from Stafford, VA where I began my interest in the outdoors through waterfowl hunting. I have spent past summers doing fish habitat work, but now look to expand my knowledge with the variety of opportunities that Patuxent has to offer. ✨

The Refuge is Closed on Federal Holidays, including the following:



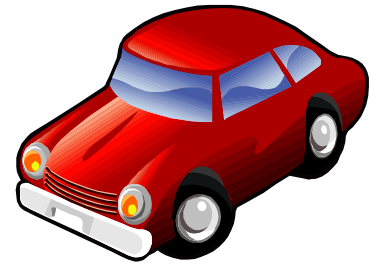
Columbus Day
October 12

Veterans Day
November 11



Thanksgiving
November 26

Christmas Day
December 25



CarMax Laurel Toyota Donates to Friends of Patuxent

CarMax Laurel Toyota donated \$7,500 to the Friends of Patuxent. CarMax, the nation's largest used car retailer, donated more than \$50,000 to Laurel, MD area non-profit organizations (including the Friends of Patuxent). The money helps fund the annual Patuxent Wildlife Art Show and Sale and support the programs of the Refuge and Research Center. Ted Neale, General Manager of CarMax Laurel Toyota says, "We are proud to support these worthwhile organizations. Whether it's helping the homeless, saving endangered animals and abandoned pets, or empowering young people to succeed, these programs are changing our community for the better." ❄



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Friends of Patuxent
 National Wildlife Visitor Center
 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
 Laurel, MD 20708-4027

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“Friends” website: www.friendspwrc.org

☎ (301) 497-5789

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** areas is **63960** and Maryland Charitable Organization Registration - **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)

Donation only \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ (**Zip**) _____

Telephone:

Email _____

