

## ***Friends Forward Index***

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### **Winter 2007**

1 – Friends Academy – Advanced Capacity Building

2 – New Friends Policy to provide consistency on administration

2 – New Titles – reminder of *Taking Flight; Soaring to New Heights* coming

3 – Budget Process

4-5 F2F

- Launching new organization – Friends of Crane Meadows (MN), Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards (Franz Lake, Pierce, Steigerwald Lake NWRs), Friends of Deer Flat (ID)
- Introducing middle school students to NC refuges – Alligator NWR Club
- Environmental Film Festival debuts in New Mexico – Friends of Bosque del Apache
- Bon Secour NWR (AL) – dunes restoration

6 – Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus – 120 members of House representing 36 states, 168 refuges

7 – FAQ

- What types of skills and traits should we seek as we organize or expand our board of directors
- What are some of the less complicated events we can organize as a start-up group

8 – *Beyond the Boundaries* – citizen conservationists...80 people, 30 Friends organizations

### **Spring 2007**

1 – Standardized Design

1 – America the Beautiful Interagency Pass

2 – Reading Rachel Carson

3 – Awards

- Friends Group of the year – San Luis Valley
- Volunteer of the Year – Marian Sansing (Noxubee – MS))

4-5 Friends to Friends

- Chassahowitzka and the cranes (FL)
- Walk on Winn Dixie Open House – Florida Key Friends
- Writing a Newsletter – tips from Mike Blenden, San Luis Valley NWR mgr
- Noxubee Friends advertise on billboard for free

6 – Glacier activity at Togiak-AK

7 – FAQ

- How can a Friends organization recruit new board members?
- What are hallmarks of a solid and sustainable Friends and refuge partnership

### **Summer 2007**

1 – Preserve America grants

- Friends of Kenai –AK – interpretive panels at 10 restored cabins

- Friends of Rydell -MN – 20-30 min DVD being produced on changes in prairie pothole region
  - Friends of Assabet River -MA – interpretive displays
- 2 – Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge – fundraiser for new organization
- 2 – Mentoring visits – Eufaula (AL), St Vincent (FL), Southwest LA Complex, AK refuges
- 3 – Carbon footprint – Conservation Fund and FWS Go Zero
- 3 – Mark Musaus new chief visitor services and communications
- 4-5 F2F
- Friends of Lee Metcalf - MT – license plates
  - Shoreline Education for Awareness (Oregon Coast) – new ad campaign
  - Friends of Erie -PA– Guys Mills Heritage Festival
  - Deer Flat - ID – Great Backyard Bird Count
- 6 – Midway Journal – Christy Finlayson
- 6 – National Wildlife Refuge Friends Grants (Trevor Needham)
- Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges
  - Friends of Iroquois Refuge (NY)
  - Friends of Laguna Atascosa Refuge - TX
  - *Deadline for 2007 grants by Sept 4*
- 7 – FAQ
- What's the value of the time that Friends groups invest in refuges
- 8 – Friends at the witness table for House appropriations subcommittee hearing
- Marie Springer (Wallkill River NJ)
  - Molly Brown (pres, Friends of Back Bay VA)
  - David Raskin, president Friends of AK
  - John McCabe , J.N. Ding Darling Wildlife Society (FL)
  - Walt Stieglitz, board member Pelican Island Preservation Society (FL)
- 9 – Polar Bears – 500,000 emails, letters and petitions by Apr 9 re endangered listing

### **Fall 2007**

- 1 – First Friends Academy
- 2 – Congressional field trip to learn about transportation programs on refuges
- 2 – Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Amendment Act of 2007 – being considered by house and senate committees
- 2 – Six Congressman honored
- Cong Jim Saxton, NJ
  - Cong Norman Dick, WA
  - Cong Todd Tiahrt, KS
  - Cong Ron Kind, WS
  - Cong Mike Thompson, CA
  - Cong Michael Castle, DE
- 3 – Starting a bookstore at your refuge
- 4 – 5 Friend to Friend
- Ron and Peggy Tillier, Blackwater Refuge - MD – gave more than 14,000 hours
  - Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado and Friends of San Luis Valley – crane festival during national wildlife refuge week

- Fire lines at Okefenokee –GA-- volunteers are members of Okefenokee Wildlife League
- Friends and Volunteers of Refuges, Florida Keys (FAVOR) – Green-thumb certified campaign to weed out invasives

6 – Hiring an executive director

6 – Grant Deadlines

- American Hiking Society – Nov 1 (Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge - IL)
- Preserve America – Friends in AK, MN, MA

7 – FAQ

- How can a Friends organization manage members

8 – Study confirms popularity of outdoor activities (National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation)

### **Winter 2008**

1 – National Friends Conference coming in April

2 – 2008 Mentoring program – apply by March 14

2 – *A Home for Salty* – Friends of San Pablo Bay NWR; about endangered salt marsh harvest mice

3 – online invasive species training

3 – Draft Friends policy

3 – Great Dismal Swamp –NJ - in African American history

4 – F2F

- Friends of Chassahowitzka –FL - and Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center (Silvio O. Conte) hold musical fundraisers
- Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge Association renovating CCC barracks (Oregon)
- Matagorda Island NWR Sea Turtle Patrol (TX)
- Supporters of St Vincent NWR (FL) – busy new org; mentored in 2007

6 – Friends of the Willamette Valley –OR - – tour of three refuges and three wineries

7 – FAQ

- How do you create a board committee

7 – Marine debris challenges refuge system

8 – DVD Volume 3

### **Spring 2008**

1 – Awards:

- Kevin Brennan – manager of the year (Fergus Falls WMD, ND)
- Friends of Sherburne NWR (MN)
- Clyde Morris – retired mgr Don Edwards San Francisco Bay (CA) – employee of the year
- John Bertrand – Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR (NM) – vol of the year

2 – Birding initiative

2 – Big Oaks Conservation Society (Big Oaks NWR, IN) – taking on stewardship of Old Timbers Lodge now on refuge land

3 – Small Wetlands 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

4-5 F2F

- Five Recruiting Tips

- Oral history project at Tamarac NWR (MN)
  - Photo contest by several groups – Great Swamp (NJ), Blackwater (MD), Ridgefield (OR)
  - Quarterly conference calls among Northeast Region Friends coordinator and Refuge Friends groups
- 6 – webcams (Blackwater, MD)
- 7 – new visitor center at Chincoteague NWR (VA) – tips for creating strategic communications plan
- 8 – Friends of the Bosque del Apache (NM) raises funds to purchase Chupadera Peak
- 8 – FAQ
- Are there standard practices for board term limits?
  - Are there strategies for addressing board members who miss meetings?

### **Summer 2008**

- 1 - Florida Panther partnership with Ritz Carlton and Whole Foods
- 2 - Standardized design
- 2 - Building a photo blind
- 3 - Friends of Alaska volunteer all around state
- 3 - Volunteer Master Naturalists at Edwin B. Forsythe Refuge (NJ)
- 4-5 Friend to Friend
- Gourmet fundraising Friends of Maine Coastal Islands
  - Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (UT)– the Movie
  - Backpacks Ding Darling, Upper Mississippi Refuges
- 5 - Kudos
- Seney Natural History Association (MI), regional award
  - Dennis Mudderman – Midwest Regional Director’s Award; Tamarac Refuge
  - Marie Springer – Friends of Walkill Refuge NJ; Environmental Quality Award
  - Nancy Menasco – Red River Refuge (LA)– Southeast Regional Director’s Award
- 6 – Calendar
- 7 – Establishment of Friends of Pool 9 (Upper Mississippi Refuge)
- 7 – Bookstore training in fall 2008
- 8 – Workday at Supawna Meadows Refuge (NJ)

### **Fall 2008**

- 1 - New Leadership Team
- 1 – Independent Evaluation Rates Refuge System – MSI report
- 2 – Welcome
- Friends of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (NC)
  - Kodiak Chapter of Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges (AK)
  - Friends of Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuge (FL)
  - Friends of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuge (GA, SC)
  - Friends of Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge(AL)
  - Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands (WI)
  - Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges (CO)
  - Lostwood Birding and Nature Association (ND) – Lostwood Natl Wildlife Refuge Assoc.

- 3 – Capital Campaigns (Sherburne, Black Bayou, Bear River, Loxahatchee, Ding Darling, Bosque del Apache)
- 4-5 Friend to Friend
  - 4-5 Fundraising
    - Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex (NY) – tree sales, Wildflower & Wine
    - Friends of Blackwater – 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Eagle’s Nest Christmas Open House
    - “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society – Biolage partnership
  - 4-6 Reaching out to Teachers – Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (MN)
  - 4-7 Creatures of the Night – Friends of Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge (NJ)
- 6 Succession Planning *Doug Seale, Friends of the Assabet National Wildlife Refuge (MA)*
- 7 – Building Rapport with Congress *Molly Brown, Friends of Back Bay National Wildlife Ref (VA)*
- 8 - History by the Numbers *Charles Whitmore, Friends of Great Swamp (NJ)*
- 9 – Mentors Visit Four States
  - 4-8 Rocky Mt Arsenal and Rocky Flats (CO)
  - 4-9 Tensas Refuge (LA)
  - 4-10 Lostwood Refuge (ND)
  - 4-11 Columbia Gorge Refuge (WA)
- 10 – FAQ – TechSoup [www.techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org)
- 10 – Calendar
- 11 – Puffin Watch – Fireworks-free Celebration – Friends of Haystack Rock (OR) *Gary Hayes*
- 12 – Wild Bird Note cards
- 12 – 2009 National Friends Conference
- 12 – Refuge Week Toolkit has long shelf life

### **Winter 2009**

- 1-National Friends Conference Feb 21-23
- 1 - New hunting guide online ([www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting))
- 2-Saving Three Sisters Springs (Friends of Chassahowitzka-FL) *Lace Blue-McLean*
- 3-Merritt Island Refuge Nature of Learning grant used with high school students (Merritt Island Wildlife Association-FL)
- 4-5 Friend to Friend
  - Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex -NY podcasts
  - Pea Island National Refuge –NC podcasts
  - Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge cell phone tours
  - From Friends Conference to Cattail Swamp (Friends of Humboldt Bay-WA) *Betsy Burch*
  - Planning for Refuge Week – Friends of Great Swamp-NJ display materials in libraries
  - Get Some Nature Into Your Kids – PSAs, posters
- 6-7 Civics 101/Congressional committees/Caucus/Laws/CARE
- 8-Q&A – Web-based networking opportunities (Friends of Noxubee-MS; Friends of Ridgefield-WA)
- 9 – Birder friendly refuges
  - Celebrate Urban Birds (Cornell)
  - Duck Stamps not just for birders
  - Using stores to attract birders
- 10- Transit in refuges – National Elk-WY, Bosque del Apache – NM, San Diego Bay-CA, Chincoteague-VA

- 11 – Thoughts from a refuge manager *Jonathan Schafler*
- 11 – Welcome Friends of the Ohio River Islands Refuge –WV
- 12 – Connecting People with Nature resources
- 12 – Invasives Web site wins award from National Association for Interpretation