

FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL—JUNE 2009

BOOKSTORE & GIFT SHOP

Saturday & Sunday, 11:00 am—5:00 pm
Books & nature gifts. Great Swamp t-shirts & sweatshirts. Prints, pottery, photos, & jewelry by local artists. Refuge maps & information. Check the sightings board—or add to it. And remember... the coffee's always on. Closed July & August.

DISCOVERY DEN

Saturday & Sunday, 11:00 am—5:00 pm
Located in the Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop, the Discovery Den has loads of free fun activities, exhibits, nature crafts, puzzles, & games for families. Ever changing seasonal activities. Stop and stay awhile! Closed July & August.

APRIL

Saturday, April 4, 8:30 am—Noon
ANNUAL REFUGE ROADSIDE CLEANUP
Help spruce up the Refuge for Spring. Volunteers are needed to pick up litter and debris along Refuge roads. Wear boots. Meet at Refuge Headquarters, 241 Pleasant Plains Road.

Saturday, April 4, 1:00—4:00 pm
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & ORIENTATION
For all volunteers—new and old! Come learn about the variety of volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Whether it's greeting visitors, working on native plant gardens, assisting with Refuge work days—there's something for every interest. With the new visitor center opening in the Fall, we'll need even more volunteers! Help support your national wildlife refuge—come find out how!

Saturday, April 11, 8:30 am—Noon
SPRING HOMESTEAD CLEANUP
Get some exercise and fresh air while you clean up man-made debris from the Refuge. Hard physical work, but rewarding. Wear boots. Lunch will follow for all volunteers.

Sunday, April 12, 2:00—4:00 pm
SECOND SUNDAY... WITH FRIENDS: SIGNS OF SPRING
Join the Friends as we share our favorite signs of spring on the Refuge. On the walk following the program, we'll explore spring's predictable and surprise displays. Refreshments.



Friday, April 17, 6:30 pm
ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT
Volunteers celebrate and are recognized at this annual dinner co-sponsored by the Friends & the Refuge. By invitation.

Saturday, April 25, 11:00 am—2:00 pm
JUNIOR REFUGE MANAGER KICK-OFF DAY!
Become a Junior Refuge Manager! This new program is a fun way for youngsters, ages 5 to 13, to learn about the Refuge and its wildlife. Candidates complete the activities in the Activity Guide and earn a certificate and official Junior Refuge Manager badge. Volunteers will be available at the Wildlife Observation Center to assist children as they complete their Activity Guides (see schedule in May). It's



easy and fun—for the whole family. Come learn what it's all about and get started on your badge. All program activities take place at the Wildlife Observation Center on New Vernon Road.

MAY

JUNIOR REFUGE MANAGER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE
Volunteer Swamp Nature Guides will be available to assist aspiring Junior Refuge Managers from Noon—3:00 pm on the following dates. All activities take place at the Wildlife Observation Center on New Vernon Road.

Sunday, May 3	Invertebrates, Birds
Saturday, May 9	Snakes, Turtles, Frogs
Sunday, May 17	Snakes, Turtles, Frogs
Saturday, May 23	Invertebrates, Birds
Sunday, May 31	Invertebrates, Birds
Saturday, June 6	Snakes, Turtles, Frogs

WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING—REFUGE STYLE
The Refuge Rovers “teams” will again attempt to best their all-time record of 125 species. Reservations required. Call 973-425-9510.

Sunday, May 10, 2:00—4:00 pm
SECOND SUNDAY... WITH FRIENDS: BIRD SKETCHING FOR BEGINNERS
Improve your birding! Learn the techniques of capturing the essence of bird movement and behavior in this bird sketching class. Terry Carruthers will cover observation techniques, bird shapes, feather patterns, the importance of beak and eye drawing, capturing movement, the use of shading, and more. Materials will be supplied by the Friends. Following the indoor program, the group will walk in the Management Area to hone their observation skills. For all ages. Refreshments.

Saturday, May 16—all day
BIO-BLITZ
Think of it—experts from every discipline spend 24 hours on the Refuge counting everything they can find that swims, walks, flies, grows, or crawls. The public is invited to this event. There will be guided walks and a chance to watch the catalog of species grow during the day. Sponsored by Great Swamp Watershed Association, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the Friends of Great Swamp.

JUNE

Sunday, June 14, 2:00—4:00 pm
SECOND SUNDAY... WITH FRIENDS: PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED
Although the program is not yet set, you can be sure there will be a Second Sunday “talk and walk” at the Friends of Great Swamp. With refreshments! Join us!

FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY—SEPTEMBER 2009

JULY

Sunday, July 12, 2:00 –4:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY... WITH FRIENDS: THE INCREDIBLE HONEY BEE

Ever wonder why bees seem to appear when you open a can of soda!? How do people have a “beard of bees” without getting stung? How can one little bee make a difference? Come hear what the buzz is all about from Betsy Coyne, part-time bee keeper for 15 years. Note: Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop will be open from 11:00 am–5:00 pm on July 12 only.

Wednesday, July 15, 5:30–8:00 pm

MEMBERS ONLY—PROGRAM PLANNING FOR THE FALL

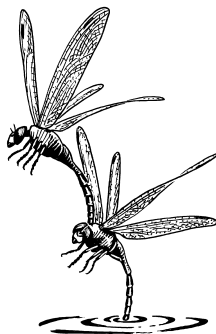
Help plan Friends of Great Swamp events and activities for the Fall and Winter seasons—and beyond! Bring your ideas and your program suggestions. Join the Board for this hands-on planning session. All members welcome. Get involved! Free dinner will be provided to all who pre-register.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 9, 2:00 –4:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY... WITH FRIENDS: BUTTERFLIES & DRAGONFLIES

Join avid amateurs Dorothy Smullen, Ellen Goldberg, and Nancy Schenck in a program about nature’s exquisite winged insects. Find out which species are common in the swamp. Bring your binoculars and field guides (or borrow ours) for a walk into the Management Area following the indoor program to practice your identification skills. For all ages. Refreshments. Note: Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop will be open from 11:00 am–5:00 pm on August 9 only.



Date, time and place to be determined

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

For all volunteers—new and old! Come learn about the variety of volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Whether it’s greeting visitors, working on native plant gardens, assisting with Refuge work days—there’s something for every interest. With the new visitor center opening in September, we’ll need even more volunteers! Help support your national wildlife refuge—come find out how!

Saturday, August 29—Sunday, October 25

FALL MIGRATION STAFFING SEASON

Spend some time outdoors at the Wildlife Observation Center during fall migration season. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors, answer questions, and record sightings. It’s a great time to visit the Refuge—or, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, let us know. It’s fun and rewarding. Call 973-425-9510.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 12, 10:00 am–3:00 pm

TENTH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

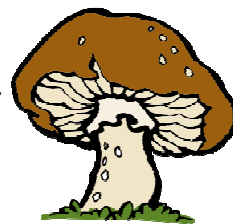
This year the Fall Festival will be held at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center. There will be lots of programs, displays, activities for kids, food, fun, and more—plus a tour of the new visitor center. For all ages. Join us for our inaugural event at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center and celebrate the start of the busy fall season at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.



Sunday, September 13, 2:00 –4:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY... WITH FRIENDS: WORLD OF FUNGI

Visible fungi come in all colors and shapes—brackets, corals, jellies, cups, and mushrooms and they serve an important function in helping make a healthy forest. Join naturalist Dorothy Smullen to learn why. Following the indoor program, there will be a guided walk to check out the variety of fungi at the new visitor center. Refreshments.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Refuge Group tours are available for schools, scouts, and other youth or adult organizations. Contact Judy Schmidt at 908-647-2508 to schedule a tour.

If a field trip to the Refuge is not an option, ask about our **Swamp in a Box** loan program—an easy way to bring the Refuge into your classroom; contact Dorothy Smullen at 908-647-5740 for more information.

We’ll bring the Refuge to your program or event. Ask about our **Speakers Outreach Program**, where volunteers bring a customized presentation about Great Swamp to your group meeting. Contact Kathy Woodward at 973-635-1083 if you are interested.

EVENT INFORMATION

- Junior Refuge Manager Activity Guides sell for \$2.00 each, however, they will be free for the April 25 Kick-Off.
- All programs are free.
- Registration is not required unless noted.
- All programs meet at the Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop unless otherwise noted.