

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY—MARCH 2012

JANUARY 2012

Sunday, January 1, 1:30–2:30 pm (*1st Sundays*)

REFUGE RAMBLE What a perfect place to welcome the new year! Join us for this informal guided walk led by Refuge staff and/or volunteers. Hot cocoa after. Visitor Center.

Thursday, January 5, 12:30–1:30 pm (*1st Thursdays*)

NATURE ON FILM—LUNCH AND A MOVIE

A Sense of Wonder. Rachel Carson's love for the natural world and her fight to defend it. Bring a "green bag" lunch. We'll provide beverages & dessert. Visitor Center.

Sunday, January 8, 1:30–3:30 pm

SECOND SUNDAY... with Friends ALL ABOUT WOOD DUCK BOXES

Join volunteer Leo Hollein for the behind-the-scenes story of a wood duck box; optional outdoor walk to nearby boxes.

(*Perhaps* we'll find a wintering screech owl!) Visitor Center.

Friday, January 20, 2:00–3:30 pm (*3rd Fridays*)

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Discussion of: The Big Burn—Teddy Roosevelt and the fire that saved America by Timothy Egan. Join us! All are welcome. Visitor Center.

Saturday, January 21, 1:30–2:30 pm

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

For new or prospective volunteers. Learn about Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the many volunteer opportunities. All are welcome. Visitor Center.

Sunday, January 22, 1:30–3:30 pm (*4th Sundays*)

LET'S GO EXPLORING... WITH RANGER DAVE

A new series of monthly programs led by Refuge Ranger Dave Sagan. Ages 6–12. January's program: What do animals do in the wintertime? We'll cover migration and winter survival techniques. Indoor learning activities followed by exploration outside. Dress warmly. Visitor Center.

Thursday, January 26, 9:30 am–3:30 pm

ADVANCED VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP—INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Dave Sagan will present a day-long workshop on interpretation—how to lead walks, give talks, and write messages. Bring lunch. Registration required. Visitor Center.

FEBRUARY 2012

Thursday, February 2, 12:30–1:30 pm (*1st Thursdays*)

NATURE ON FILM—LUNCH AND A MOVIE

America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie. Bring a "green bag" lunch. We'll provide beverages & dessert. Visitor Center.

Sunday, February 5, 1:30–2:30 pm (*1st Sundays*)

REFUGE RAMBLE It's winter at Great Swamp—will we find any signs of spring? Informal guided walk led by Refuge staff and/or volunteers. Visitor Center.

Sunday, February 12, 1:30–3:30 pm

SECOND SUNDAY... with Friends USING GIS An important management tool, Geographic Information Systems can also be exciting and fun! Dave Sagan will demonstrate. Visitor Center.

Friday, February 17, 2:00–3:30 pm (*3rd Fridays*)

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Discussion of: Anthill, a novel by E.O. Wilson. All are welcome. Visitor Center.

February 17–20, during Visitor Center hours

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC) It's the 15th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. We'll have nature activities for kids, a variety of programs, and guided walks. Bird watchers of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Visitor Center.

Sunday, February 26, 1:30–3:30 pm (*4th Sundays*)

LET'S GO EXPLORING... WITH RANGER DAVE

Whose tracks are those? Learn to identify tracks and scat and learn about these animals. Ages 6–12. Indoor activities and outside exploration. Dress warmly. Visitor Center.

MARCH 2012

Thursday, March 1, 12:30–1:30 pm (*1st Thursdays*)

NATURE ON FILM—LUNCH AND A MOVIE

Wolves in Paradise. Bring a "green bag" lunch. We'll provide beverages & dessert. Visitor Center.

Sunday, March 4, 1:30–2:30 pm (*1st Sundays*)

REFUGE RAMBLE Join us on a guided walk to locate signs of spring! Led by Refuge staff and/or volunteers. Visitor Center.

Saturday, March 10, 1:30–2:30 pm

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Learn about the Refuge and volunteer opportunities. All are welcome. Visitor Center.

Sunday, March 11, 1:30–3:30 pm

SECOND SUNDAY...with Friends LIVING WITH BEARS

Jonathan Rosenberg will show a video and discuss bear safety around the house and in the wild. Visitor Center.

Friday, March 16, 2:00–3:30 pm (*3rd Fridays*)

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion of: Dawn light by Diane Ackerman. Copies are available for loan. Join us! All are welcome. Visitor Center.

Saturday, March 24, 10:00 am–Noon

REFUGE WORK DAY AT THE WILDLIFE OBSERVATION CENTER

Come help us get spruced up for spring migration season.

Sunday, March 25 through Sunday, June 3

SPRING MIGRATION STAFFING SEASON During the busy spring migration season, volunteers staff the Wildlife Observation Center to provide visitor information. Become a volunteer!

Thursday, March 29, 6:30 pm–dusk **SPRING WOODCOCK WALK**

Watch the elaborate mating displays of the American woodcock. Indoor program followed by walk. Co-sponsored by Greater Watchung Nature Club and the Friends. Leader: Pete Axelrod. Visitor Center. Rain date, April 5.



Sunday, March 25, 1:30–3:30 pm

LET'S GO EXPLORING... WITH RANGER DAVE (4th Sundays)

This month learn about the many species of New Jersey freshwater fish. Ages 6–12. Indoor learning activities followed by exploration outside. Dress warmly. Visitor Center.

