

# GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS      AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2015

## AUGUST 2015

Saturday, August 1, 9:00—Noon **GARDEN DAY** Join us to work in the gardens; no experience needed. Visitor Center.

Friday, August 7, 9:00—Noon

**GREAT SWAMP STRIKE TEAM WORK DAY** Help to eradicate emerging invasive plant species before they take hold. Work days on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, through October. Meet at the Visitor Center to car pool to selected sites.

Sunday, August 9, 1:30—3:00 pm



**SECOND SUNDAY...with Friends**

**SHARING THE WORLD WITH RAPTORS**

Join us as we partner with The Raptor Trust for a presentation on ....

Raptors of course! Learn about raptors and how important they are to the natural world. Get to know some of the

species of hawks and owls that are common residents in New Jersey. Meet a live education raptor and view specimens and mounts up close. Visitor Center Pavilion (outdoors).

Thursday, August 13, 9:00—Noon

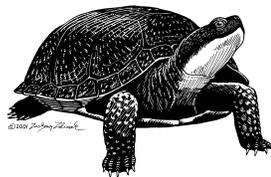
**INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY**

Help control invasive plant species on the Refuge. Work days on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month through September. Meet at Visitor Center.

Saturday, August 15, 10:00—11:00 am

**TURTLE HEAD-START UPDATE**

Join the turtle team for an update on this summer's turtle research. Help send off this year's hatchlings for their winter "vacation" in Massachusetts. Visitor Center.



Sunday, August 16, 1:30—3:30 pm

**NATURE PHOTO SHOW AND ICE CREAM SUNDAY**

Bring your best nature photos, share your stories—and create your own sundae. Bring a flash drive—we'll have a computer and monitor for display. No photos? Join us just to enjoy the show—and the ice cream! All are welcome. Visitor Center.

Friday, August 21, 9:00—Noon

**GREAT SWAMP STRIKE TEAM WORK DAY**

See August 7 for details.

Friday, August 21, 2:00—3:30 pm

**REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** Join us for a fun and lively discussion of The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert. Copies are available for loan. New members welcome. Visitor Center.

Saturday, August 22, 11:30—12:30 pm

**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION.** Come and find out about volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp NWR, then caravan to the Wildlife Observation Center at 1:00 to learn more—and even get started! (optional). Come to the Visitor Center at 11:30.

Saturday, August 22, 11:00—1:00 pm

**WILDLIFE OBSERVATION CENTER FALL CLEANUP**

Help us clean out the shed and spruce up the trails. Stay for a Fall Migration Season kick-off party at 1:00 to brush up on procedures and learn what's new! Wildlife Observation Center, 220 Long Hill Road, Harding Township.

Sunday, August 23 thru Sunday, November 8

**MIGRATION STAFFING—WILDLIFE OBSERVATION CENTER** Volunteers Needed!

Thursday, August 27, 9:00—Noon

**INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY** See August 13 for details

Saturday, August 29, 9:00—Noon **GARDEN DAY** Join us to work in the gardens; no experience needed. Visitor Center.

## SEPTEMBER 2015

Friday, September 4, 9:00—Noon

**GREAT SWAMP STRIKE TEAM WORK DAY** See August 7 for details.

Thursday, September 10, 9:00—Noon

**INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY** See August 13 for details.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 10:00—3:30 PM**

**16TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL—MONARCHS ON THE MOVE**



**J**oin us for a Fall celebration. This year we're celebrating Monarchs!

Guided walks, river seining, target archery, face painting. For the kids—crafts and games, make a bluebird nest box to take home, climb up on the Refuge heavy equipment. The Raptor Trust and other partners will have displays.

Free hot dogs on the grill—and fun for all! Photo contest winners announced at 11:30 am. Visitor Center.

Friday, September 18, 9:00—Noon

**GREAT SWAMP STRIKE TEAM WORK DAY** See August 7 for details.

Friday, September 18, 2:00—3:30 pm

**REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** Discussion of Waking Up in Eden by Lucinda Fleenon. Copies are available for loan. New members welcome. Visitor Center.

Sunday, September 20, 1:30—3:30 pm

**ALL ABOUT MONARCHS, MILKWEEDS, AND MORE**

Indoor Monarch program, tag and release outdoors. Monarchs need our help. Come find out what you can do. Visitor Center.



Thursday, September 24, 9:00—Noon

**INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK DAY**

See August 13 for details.

Saturday, September 26, 9:00—Noon

**FALL ROADSIDE CLEANUP** Help pick up litter along Refuge Roads. Meet at Refuge Headquarters, 241 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township.



# GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS      OCTOBER 2015—DECEMBER 2015

**GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of Great Swamp NWR are pleased to present our Calendar of Events. Take a look at the educational programs, work days, volunteer opportunities, a book group, and more! We hope you'll join us for one—or many—of these events.

**HELEN C. FENSKE VISITOR CENTER**  
Enjoy state-of-the-art exhibits, Discovery Den activities for kids, the Great Swamp quilt, nature DVDs, native plant gardens, a half-mile walking trail, a new Nature Detective Trail for kids. Shop in the Friends Nature Shop—all proceeds support Refuge projects. Start your visit here!

### OCTOBER 2015

Saturday, October 10, 1:30–3:00 pm  
**VISITOR CENTER VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION:** Volunteers are needed to assist in the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center greeting visitors, answering questions, and providing an orientation to Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Sound interesting? Come learn more about this rewarding volunteer opportunity. For new and prospective volunteers. Visitor Center.

### OCTOBER 11–OCTOBER 17 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

#### *SUNSET WALKS EVERY NIGHT!*

Sunday, October 11–Saturday, October 17  
5:30 pm–dark

Join us to watch the many species of migrating ducks that descend into the Refuge pools to spend the night. It's awesome! Easy walk on service roads. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight. Meet at Bluebird Parking Lot, 197 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township NJ.

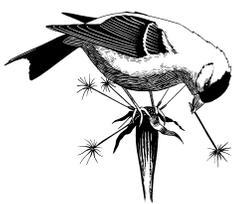


#### *Citizen Science Opportunity*

Sunday, October 11, Dawn to dusk  
**FRIENDS' SWAMP SITTERS HOST THE BIG SIT!**  
Learn more about birds and bird identification during this annual citizen science event. Stop by during the day and join the count—for a little while... or longer! Event takes place at the Overlook on Pleasant Plains Road.



Sunday, October 11, 1:30–3:00 pm  
**SECOND SUNDAY—YOUR BACKYARD WILDLIFE REFUGE**



Don't just rely on store-bought seeds and suet to attract birds and other wildlife to your yard. Join Master Naturalist Garry Annibal to learn how to choose the right plants and create other landscape features to turn your yard into your own wildlife refuge. Visitor Center.

Friday, October 16, 2:00–3:30 pm (*3rd Fridays*)  
**REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** *The Animal Dialogues: Uncommon Encounters in the Wild* by Craig Childs. New members welcome. Copies available for loan at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, October 31  
**YOUTH DEER HUNT**—Refuge closed, except Wilderness Area.

### NOVEMBER 2015

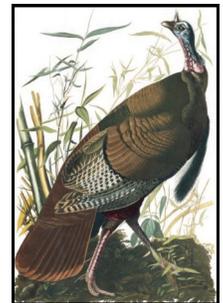
Wednesday, November 4 through Saturday, November 7  
**ANNUAL REFUGE DEER HUNT**—Entire Refuge closed.

Sunday, November 8, 1:30–3:30 pm  
**SECOND SUNDAY—TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Friday, November 20, 2:00–3:30 pm **REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** *The Grail Bird* by Tim Gallagher. New members welcome. Copies for loan at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, November 28, 1:00–2:30 pm  
**ANNUAL TURKEY WALK**

Back by popular demand. Join us as we walk off that Thanksgiving turkey on an informal walk into the Management Area, normally closed to the public. Easy walk along service roads. Meet at Bluebird Parking Lot, 197 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township, NJ.



### DECEMBER 2015

Thursday, December 3 thru Sunday, December 6  
**DOUBLE DISCOUNT DAYS AT THE FRIENDS NATURE SHOP**  
10% off all purchases—20% for members. Get your holiday shopping done early and help your favorite place—Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. All Nature Shop proceeds help fund Refuge projects. Visitor Center.



Saturday, December 5, 5:00–8:00 pm  
**FRIENDS MEMBER MEETING & POT LUCK DINNER**  
For all Friends Members. Pot luck dinner followed by a business meeting and elections. Bring a favorite dish to share. Visitor Center.

#### *Citizen Science Opportunity*

Saturday, December 19  
**116TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**  
This is an annual count when thousands of people, all over the country, spend a day counting birds, gathering data on the number and species of birds seen and heard. Even if you are a novice birder, you can join a team—and learn from the many birding experts. It's fun, easy, and a nice day outdoors. Call the Visitor Center for more information and contacts.

**Prefer to stay indoors?** The Friends will be indoors at the Visitor Center counting the birds at our feeders. Join us and learn the common winter feeder birds and contribute to the Christmas Bird Count data.

*There will be no Second Sunday or Refuge Readers in December.*

