

# GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS      OCTOBER 2014—DECEMBER 2014

**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 2014

Sunday, October 5, 1:30–2:30 pm *(1st Sundays)*  
**REFUGE RAMBLE.** Informal interpretive walk. Visitor Center.

Saturday, October 11, 1:30–2:30 pm  
**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION:** Interested in volunteering? Come learn about the many opportunities. For new and prospective volunteers. Visitor Center.

### OCTOBER 12–OCTOBER 18 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

#### *SUNSET WALKS EVERY NIGHT!*

Sunday, October 12–Saturday, October 18  
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. Van available Sunday and Thursday nights; space in the van is limited—reservations required. Meet at Bluebird Parking Lot, 197 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township NJ.



#### *Citizen Science Opportunity*

Sunday, October 12, Dawn to dusk  
**FRIENDS' SWAMP SITTERS HOST THE BIG SIT!**  
Learn more about birds and bird identification during this annual event. Stop by during the day and join the fun—for a little while... or longer! Takes place at the Overlook on Pleasant Plains Road.



Sunday, October 12, 1:30–3:00 pm **SECOND SUNDAY—URBAN PARK RESTORATION** We are so fortunate to welcome back FDU Professor Brian Olechnowski to give us an update on his studies of bird population trends in urban park restoration projects. Visitor Center.

Friday, October 17, 2:00–3:30 pm *(3rd Fridays)*  
**REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** Autumn Across America, by Edwin Way Teale. New members welcome. Copies available for loan at Visitor Center.

### NOVEMBER 2014

Saturday, November 1  
**YOUTH DEER HUNT**—Refuge closed, except Wilderness Area.

Sunday, November 2, 1:30–2:30 pm *(1st Sundays)*  
**REFUGE RAMBLE** Informal interpretive walk. Visitor Center.

Wednesday, November 5 through Saturday, November 8  
**ANNUAL REFUGE DEER HUNT**—Entire Refuge closed.



Sunday, November 9, 1:30–3:30 pm  
**SECOND SUNDAY—IT'S TURKEY TIME!** Did you know? Turkeys roost in trees—they are very fast fliers—and 40 years ago, there were no turkeys in N.J. Meet Bob Eriksen, who was instrumental in restoring the Wild Turkey to New Jersey, beginning in the late 1970s. Hear about this fascinating success story and learn more about the life of this unusual bird, so common now that we just take it for granted. Visitor Center.

Friday, November 21, 2:00–3:30 pm *(3rd Fridays)*  
**REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** John James Audubon: The Making of an American by Richard Rhodes. New members welcome. Copies for loan at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, November 29, 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 2014

Thursday, December 4, 1:00–2:30 pm  
**NATURE ON FILM—NOTE NEW TIME**  
Film to be announced. Visitor Center.

December 4 thru December 7. Noon–4:00 on Thursday and Friday, 10:00–4:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

**HOLIDAY SHOPPING—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 proceeds help fund Refuge projects. Visitor Center.



Saturday, December 6, 5:00–8:00 pm  
**FRIENDS MEMBER MEETING & POT LUCK DINNER**  
For all Members. Pot luck dinner followed by a short business meeting and elections. Bring a favorite dish to share. Visitor Center.

#### *Citizen Science Opportunity*

Saturday, December 20, **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** in the Great Swamp /Watchung Ridge Circle. 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. 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 info.

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



# GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS      JANUARY—MARCH 2015

## JANUARY 2015



Thursday, January 1: New Year's Day.  
Refuge Open, Visitor Center Closed.

Sunday, January 11, 1:30–3:00 pm

**SECOND SUNDAY... with Friends SUNDAY AT THE MOVIES**  
Join us for a movie, refreshments, and a moderated discussion. Movie to be announced. Visitor Center.

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

**REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** Discussion of: Gifts of the Crow by John Marzluff. New members welcome. Copies available for loan at the Visitor Center.



Sunday, January 24, All Day **ADVANCED WORKSHOP FOR VOLUNTEERS—ALL ABOUT BIRDS** For active volunteers. Earn your Swamp Nature Guide Bird Bar. Details will be available in January. Visitor Center.

Sunday, January 25, 12:30–3:30 pm  
**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING.** Strap on your cross-country skis for a special group trek in the Great Swamp Wilderness Area. Leader: Dave Sagan. Meet at the Visitor Center.

## FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday, February 8, 1:30–3:00 pm **SECOND SUNDAY ... URBAN PARK RESTORATION** We are so fortunate to welcome back FDU Professor Brian Olechnowski to give us an update on his studies of bird population trends in urban park restoration projects. Visitor Center.

February 13–15, Friday, Noon–4:00; Weekends, 10:00–4:00 **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)**

You can be a Citizen Scientist! Join us for a census of winter birds at our feeders and report results to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Make a suet feeder. Continue the count on a guided walk outdoors. Learn the names of common feeder birds with our Bird Bingo! Bird watchers of all ages and skills are welcome. Visitor Center.



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

**REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** Discussion of: Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded, August 27, 1883 by Simon Winchester. New members always welcome. Books available for loan at Visitor Center.

## MARCH 2015

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

**REFUGE RAMBLE** Join us as Refuge Rambles resume. We'll check out signs of Spring on this informal, interpretive walk. Dress warmly. Visitor Center.

Sunday, March 8, 1:30–3:00 pm

**SECOND SUNDAY ... with Friends OWLS OF NEW JERSEY**



Join naturalist Dorothy Smullen to learn about the different species of owls that live year-round or migrate through New Jersey. Indoor program. Visitor Center.

Sunday, March 8, 5:30–7:30 pm

**GREAT SWAMP OWL WALK** Join us for a guided owl walk to listen for mating owl calls. Registration is required: please call 973-425-9510. Meet at the Visitor Center.

*Two Nights!*

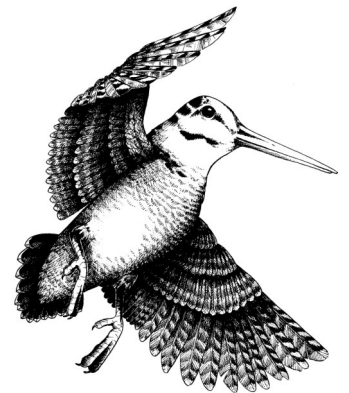
Sunday, March 15

Sunday, March 22

6:30 pm—dusk

**SPRING WOODCOCK WALKS**

Watch and listen to the elaborate mating displays of the American woodcock. Half-hour indoor program followed by a guided walk on Pleasant Plains Road. Dress warmly. Leader: Pete Axelrod. Visitor Center.



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

**REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** Discussion of: North With Spring by Edwin Way Teale. New members welcome. Copies available for loan at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, March 21, 10:00–Noon **REFUGE WORK DAY**

Join us for Spring Cleanup at the Wildlife Observation Center.

Sunday, March 22 through Sunday, June 14

**SPRING MIGRATION STAFFING SEASON** Volunteers Needed! Wildlife Observation Center.

Saturday, March 28, 1:30–2:30 pm **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** Interested in volunteering? Need Community Service hours? Come learn about the many volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. For new and prospective volunteers. Visitor Center.

