

A Publication of the Friends of Forsythe

FALL 2022



photo by Sue Puder

TAKING ACTION THROUGH EDUCATION

Wildlife Drive Jitney Tours

By Mar-Jo Attack



If you come to Forsythe Wildlife Refuge and drive your car through or park and walk one of our trails, I know you enjoy the beauty of our refuge. But did you know that every Saturday at 11:00 AM the Friends of Forsythe sponsors a Jitney Tour of the Wildlife Drive? The tours will run through January 7, 2023, and then start back up in the Spring. Each tour is hosted by a Naturalist Interpreter and they talk about the history of the refuge; they can explain why the water is sometimes higher or lower; and can talk all about the wildlife using the site. There are stops along the way for photo opportunities.

You can also arrange a private Jitney Tour with the Friends of Forsythe for your Birding group, Church group, Scout troop, or family. If you're interested, call the Visitor Information Center at 609-652-1665, Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

This newsletter is a publication of the FRIENDS OF FORSYTHE, a non-profit, 501(c)3, tax-exempt corporation that works closely with the Refuge. Friends are the bridge between the Refuge and the community, and contribute to its future by helping people understand that their actions today determine the legacy we leave for tomorrow.

Our mission is to support the purposes for which the Refuge was established and includes the following:

- For use as a sanctuary for migratory birds and non-migratory animals
- For protection of natural resources
- For the conservation of non-game, threatened and endangered species
- For promoting environmental education and experiences for children and adults
- For the development of other wildlife-oriented experiences that do not interfere with the primary mission of the Refuge.

We invite you to join. You can serve on the Board of Directors, assist as members of Advisory Committees, work in the Visitor Information Center and Nature Store, or provide your support by being a member. Please share your interest and experience. For more information, please email friendsofforsythe@gmail.com or go to <https://friendsofforsythe.org/>

New Visitor Services Manager

By Virginia Rettig, Refuge Manager

We are thrilled to welcome Tracy Neal as our new Visitor Services Manager! This position has been vacant since March 2021, and we know the support is so important for our Friends of Forsythe, our volunteers and the public. Tracy comes to us from Golden Gate National Recreation Area near San Francisco. With over 20 years of Visitor Services experience, she has worked with a diversity of federal agencies including the National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The start of her federal career was as an environmental volunteer with the US Peace Corps in the National Park Mala Fatra, Slovakia. Her favorite part of this job is meeting and working alongside a wide diversity of conservation enthusiasts that continue to teach and inspire her.



Tracy grew up in the Chicago suburbs and graduated from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration and a minor in Management. She is no stranger to New Jersey and returns to for the third time having previously worked

for Project U.S.E, an outdoor experiential education organization, leading youth programs. She looks forward to getting to know all our dedicated volunteers, exploring southern New Jersey trails and waterways, and sharpening her birding skills. You can always reach her at tracy_neal@fws.gov or 609-382-7641.

WELCOME TRACY!

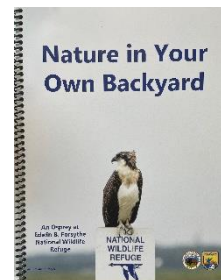
Connecting with the Community

By Virginia Rettig, Refuge Manager

This past summer, refuge staff participated in two summer camps with community organizations in Atlantic City. We taught teens at the Boys & Girls Club and elementary school-aged kids around the area of Sovereign Avenue School. We are teaching outdoor skills (think fishing, archery, nature study) and, also, planting native gardens!



In late August, we were invited to attend the City's Back-to-School-Bash where we gave 500



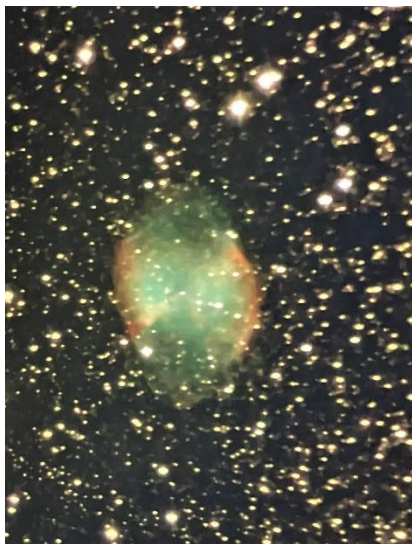
notebooks away to kids. And we brought Puddles the Blue Goose who entertained the kids! This is just the beginning of the kind of work we would like to do in our Atlantic City partnerships.



Stargazing Party

Tracy Neal, Park Ranger, Visitor Services Manager

It was a star-studded evening on Saturday October 21st as the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge hosted its third annual Stargazing Party. With calm weather and clear skies, over 300 visitors came out to gaze at the wonders of the universe. The South Jersey Astronomy Club was on site with ten telescopes allowing stargazers to learn about the night sky while enjoying views of Jupiter with 4 of its moons, the many rings of Saturn, colors of the Andromeda Galaxy, and many other celestial wonders. Thanks to the many supporting hands of staff, refuge volunteers, and the Friends of Forsythe, it was an evening that was out of this world!



Andromeda Galaxy
Credit: Virginia Rettig

South Jersey Astronomy Club member Deb Stea setting up her telescope
Credit: Virginia Rettig



A young astronomy enthusiast makes a star wheel

A Fun Time at the Old Time Barnegat Decoy and Gunning Show

Both the Refuge and the Friends participated in the 40th Annual Old Time Barnegat Decoy & Gunning Show held at Tip Seaman County Park in Tuckerton on September 24th and 25th.



The Friends engaged visitors with pelts of familiar mammals and egg models of local birds. We held a raffle for some fun items from the gift shop and gave out coloring sheets and stickers to all the kids. The Refuge sold Federal Duck Stamps and we all gave out information about our beloved refuge. A great time was had by all!



New Osprey Nest and Camera Progress

On Friday October 7th, Friends Board members, Rae Griffiths and Michele Danley joined Refuge staff and Ben Wurst from Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey in removing the old osprey camera and related equipment from the marsh. The team dismantled the solar panels, batteries and camera that are now almost 10 years old in preparation for a new platform and camera system to be installed by next spring.



Ben Wurst of Conserve Wildlife NJ directs the removal of the old osprey nest camera.

Ben and Michele Danley, Friends Board member, remove solar panels and wiring from the marsh.



Friends of Forsythe Gift Shop Expands for the Holidays!

In preparation for the holiday season, the Friends of Forsythe Gift Shop in the Visitor Information Center will continue to bring in new merchandise and has added some extra display space in the small room by the desk. Come check out the new puzzles, stuffed animals, greeting cards, magnets and more! The Gift Shop is open Wednesdays – Sundays from 10 AM – 2 PM. New stuff arrives every week!



Winners of the Friends of Forsythe 2022 Photographic Competition are Announced

By Susan Puder

The Friends of Forsythe announced the winners of the 2022 Juried Photographic Competition on September 12. Due to the coronavirus, the competition was conducted as a virtual event with over 180 entries for the open category and 16 entries for students. Our judge, Scott Whittle, evaluating all the entries stated, "It was fun to see all those great photos, and the overall quality was impressive."

After careful consideration, the **Open First Place Award went to Dean Purdy for "Eye to Eye"**.

Second Place went to Kelly Hunt for "Those Eyes", and Third Place was awarded to John Maslowski for "Waterlily Radiance". The Artistic Achievement Award went to Frumi Cohen for "Refuge".



This year the Board of Directors created the Friends of Forsythe Directors Award, which was given to Lynn Padwee for "Moon Over Forsythe". There were 17 Honorable Mentions also awarded.



For the Student Category, First Place was awarded to Patrick Matthews for "Skimming for Fish". Second Place went to Skye Geraci for "What a Catch". And Third Place was awarded to Gamiel Nelkin for "Mute Swan". Three Honorable Mentions were also awarded. Congratulations to all.

All the award winners can be viewed on our Facebook page.

We thank all who entered this year and the fine work done by our judge. Keep an eye open for the FOF 2023 Juried Photographic Competition coming next spring. So, get out there and take those award-winning photographs at E. B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

WILDLIFE LIKES US AT



<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofForsytheNWR/>



Our monthly FRIENDS MEETINGS are
the SECOND MONDAY of each month
at the
EDWIN B. FORSYTHE NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE
Administrative Building
800 Great Creek Road
Oceanville, NJ 08231