

Friends Forward Index

Use the "Find" function on your browser to search the index by topic, refuge name or article author.

Winter 2007

1 – Friends Academy – Advanced Capacity Building

2 – New Friends Policy to provide consistency on administration

2 – New Titles – reminder of *Taking Flight; Soaring to New Heights* coming

3 – Budget Process

4-5 F2F

- Launching new organization – Friends of Crane Meadows (MN), Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards (Franz Lake, Pierce, Steigerwald Lake NWRs), Friends of Deer Flat (ID)
- Introducing middle school students to NC refuges – Alligator NWR Club
- Environmental Film Festival debuts in New Mexico – Friends of Bosque del Apache
- Bon Secour NWR (AL) – dunes restoration

6 – Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus – 120 members of House representing 36 states, 168 refuges

7 – FAQ

- What types of skills and traits should we seek as we organize or expand our board of directors
- What are some of the less complicated events we can organize as a start-up group

8 – *Beyond the Boundaries* – citizen conservationists...80 people, 30 Friends organizations

Spring 2007

1 – Standardized Design

1 – America the Beautiful Interagency Pass

2 – Reading Rachel Carson

3 – Awards

- Friends Group of the year – San Luis Valley
- Volunteer of the Year – Marian Sansing (Noxubee – MS))

4-5 Friends to Friends

- Chassahowitzka and the cranes (FL)
- Walk on Winn Dixie Open House – Florida Key Friends
- Writing a Newsletter – tips from Mike Blenden, San Luis Valley NWR mgr
- Noxubee Friends advertise on billboard for free

6 – Glacier activity at Togiak-AK

7 – FAQ

- How can a Friends organization recruit new board members?
- What are hallmarks of a solid and sustainable Friends and refuge partnership

Summer 2007

1 – Preserve America grants

- Friends of Kenai –AK – interpretive panels at 10 restored cabins

- Friends of Rydell -MN – 20-30 min DVD being produced on changes in prairie pothole region
 - Friends of Assabet River -MA – interpretive displays
- 2 – Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge – fundraiser for new organization
- 2 – Mentoring visits – Eufaula (AL), ST Vincent (FL), Southwest LA Complex, AK refuges
- 3 – Carbon footprint – Conservation Fund and FWS Go Zero
- 3 – Mark Musaus new chief visitor services and communications
- 4-5 F2F
- Friends of Lee Metcalf - MT – license plates
 - Shoreline Education for Awareness (Oregon Coast) – new ad campaign
 - Friends of Erie -PA– Guys Mills Heritage Festival
 - Deer Flat - ID – Great Backyard Bird Count
- 6 – Midway Journal – Christy Finlayson
- 6 – National Wildlife Refuge Friends Grants (Trevor Needham)
- Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges
 - Friends of Iroquois Refuge (NY)
 - Friends of Laguna Atascosa Refuge - TX
 - *Deadline for 2007 grants by Sept 4*
- 7 – FAQ
- What's the value of the time that Friends groups invest in refuges
- 8 – Friends at the witness table for House appropriations subcommittee hearing
- Marie Springer (Wallkill River NJ)
 - Molly Brown (pres, Friends of Back Bay VA)
 - David Raskin, president Friends of AK
 - John McCabe , J.N. Ding Darling Wildlife Society (FL)
 - Walt Stieglitz, board member Pelican Island Preservation Society (FL)
- 9 – Polar Bears – 500,000 emails, letters and petitions by Apr 9 re endangered listing

Fall 2007

- 1 – First Friends Academy
- 2 – Congressional field trip to learn about transportation programs on refuges
- 2 – Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Amendment Act of 2007 – being considered by house and senate committees
- 2 – Six Congressman honored
- Cong Jim Saxton, NJ
 - Cong Norman Dick, WA
 - Cong Todd Tiahrt, KS
 - Cong Ron Kind, WS
 - Cong Mike Thompson, CA
 - Cong Michael Castle, DE
- 3 – Starting a bookstore at your refuge
- 4 – 5 Friend to Friend
- Ron and Peggy Tillier, Blackwater Refuge - MD – gave more than 14,000 hours
 - Monte Vista Refuge in southern Colorado and Friends of San Luis Valley – crane festival during national wildlife refuge week

- Fire lines at Okefenokee –GA-- volunteers are members of Okefenokee Wildlife League
- Friends and Volunteers of Refuges, Florida Keys (FAVOR) – Green-thumb certified campaign to weed out invasives

6 – Hiring an executive director

6 – Grant Deadlines

- American Hiking Society – Nov 1 (Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge - IL)
- Preserve America – Friends in AK, MN, MA

7 – FAQ

- How can a Friends organization manage members

8 – Study confirms popularity of outdoor activities (National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation)

Winter 2008

1 – National Friends Conference coming in April

2 – 2008 Mentoring program – apply by March 14

2 – *A Home for Salty* – Friends of San Pablo Bay NWR; about endangered salt marsh harvest mice

3 – online invasive species training

3 – Draft Friends policy

3 – Great Dismal Swamp –NJ - in African American history

4 – F2F

- Friends of Chassahowitzka –FL - and Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center (Silvio O. Conte) hold musical fundraisers
- Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge Association renovating CCC barracks (Oregon)
- Matagorda Island NWR Sea Turtle Patrol (TX)
- Supporters of St Vincent NWR (FL) – busy new org; mentored in 2007

6 – Friends of the Willamette Valley –OR - – tour of three refuges and three wineries

7 – FAQ

- How do you create a board committee

7 – Marine debris challenges refuge system

8 – DVD Volume 3

Spring 2008

1 – Awards:

- Kevin Brennan – manager of the year (Fergus Falls WMD, ND)
- Friends of Sherburne NWR (MN)
- Clyde Morris – retired mgr Don Edwards San Francisco Bay (CA) – employee of the year
- John Bertrand – Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR (NM) – vol of the year

2 – Birding initiative

2 – Big Oaks Conservation Society (Big Oaks NWR, IN) – taking on stewardship of Old Timbers Lodge now on refuge land

3 – Small Wetlands 50th anniversary

4-5 F2F

- Five Recruiting Tips

- Oral history project at Tamarac NWR (MN)
- Photo contest by several groups – Great Swamp (NJ), Blackwater (MD), Ridgefield (OR)
- Quarterly conference calls among Northeast Region Friends coordinator and Refuge Friends groups

6 – webcams (Blackwater, MD)

7 – new visitor center at Chincoteague NWR (VA) – tips for creating strategic communications plan

8 – Friends of the Bosque del Apache (NM) raises funds to purchase Chupadera Peak

8 – FAQ

- Are there standard practices for board term limits?
- Are there strategies for addressing board members who miss meetings?

Summer 2008

1 - Florida Panther partnership with Ritz Carlton and Whole Foods

2 - Standardized design

2 - Building a photo blind

3 - Friends of Alaska volunteer all around state

3 - Volunteer Master Naturalists at Edwin B. Forsythe Refuge (NJ)

4-5 Friend to Friend

- Gourmet fundraising Friends of Maine Coastal Islands
- Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (UT)– the Movie
- Backpacks Ding Darling, Upper Mississippi Refuges

5 - Kudos

- Seney Natural History Association (MI), regional award
- Dennis Mudderman – Midwest Regional Director’s Award; Tamarac Refuge
- Marie Springer – Friends of Walkill Refuge NJ; Environmental Quality Award
- Nancy Menasco – Red River Refuge (LA)– Southeast Regional Director’s Award

6 – Calendar

7 – Establishment of Friends of Pool 9 (Upper Mississippi Refuge)

7 – Bookstore training in fall 2008

8 – Workday at Supawna Meadows Refuge (NJ)

Fall 2008

1 - New Leadership Team

1 – Independent Evaluation Rates Refuge System – MSI report

2 – Welcome

Friends of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (NC)

Kodiak Chapter of Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges (AK)

Friends of Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuge (FL)

Friends of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuge (GA, SC)

Friends of Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge(AL)

Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands (WI)

Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges (CO)

Lostwood Birding and Nature Association (ND) – Lostwood Natl Wildlife Refuge Assoc.

- 3 – Capital Campaigns (Sherburne, Black Bayou, Bear River, Loxahatchee, Ding Darling, Bosque del Apache)
- 4-5 Friend to Friend
 - 4-5 Fundraising
 - Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex (NY) – tree sales, Wildflower & Wine
 - Friends of Blackwater – 12th Annual Eagle’s Nest Christmas Open House
 - “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society – Biolage partnership
 - 4-6 Reaching out to Teachers – Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (MN)
 - 4-7 Creatures of the Night – Friends of Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge (NJ)
- 6 Succession Planning *Doug Seale, Friends of the Assabet National Wildlife Refuge (MA)*
- 7 – Building Rapport with Congress *Molly Brown, Friends of Back Bay National Wildlife Ref (VA)*
- 8 - History by the Numbers *Charles Whitmore, Friends of Great Swamp (NJ)*
- 9 – Mentors Visit Four States
 - 4-8 Rocky Mt Arsenal and Rocky Flats (CO)
 - 4-9 Tensas Refuge (LA)
 - 4-10 Lostwood Refuge (ND)
 - 4-11 Columbia Gorge Refuge (WA)
- 10 – FAQ – TechSoup www.techsoup.org
- 10 – Calendar
- 11 – Puffin Watch – Fireworks-free Celebration – Friends of Haystack Rock (OR) *Gary Hayes*
- 12 – Wild Bird Note cards
- 12 – 2009 National Friends Conference
- 12 – Refuge Week Toolkit has long shelf life

Winter 2009

- 1-National Friends Conference Feb 21-23
- 1 - New hunting guide online (www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting)
- 2-Saving Three Sisters Springs (Friends of Chassahowitzka-FL) *Lace Blue-McLean*
- 3-Merritt Island Refuge Nature of Learning grant used with high school students (Merritt Island Wildlife Association-FL)
- 4-5 Friend to Friend
 - Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex -NY podcasts
 - Pea Island National Refuge –NC podcasts
 - Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge cell phone tours
 - From Friends Conference to Cattail Swamp (Friends of Humboldt Bay-WA) *Betsy Burch*
 - Planning for Refuge Week – Friends of Great Swamp-NJ display materials in libraries
 - Get Some Nature Into Your Kids – PSAs, posters
- 6-7 Civics 101/Congressional committees/Caucus/Laws/CARE
- 8-Q&A – Web-based networking opportunities (Friends of Noxubee-MS; Friends of Ridgefield-WA)
- 9 – Birder friendly refuges
 - Celebrate Urban Birds (Cornell)
 - Duck Stamps not just for birders
 - Using stores to attract birders
- 10- Transit in refuges – National Elk-WY, Bosque del Apache – NM, San Diego Bay-CA, Chincoteague-VA

- 11 – Thoughts from a refuge manager *Jonathan Schafler*
- 11 – Welcome Friends of the Ohio River Islands Refuge –WV
- 12 – Connecting People with Nature resources
- 12 – Invasives Web site wins award from National Association for Interpretation

Spring 2009

- 1 – Omnibus Public Lands Bill
- 1 – Chief: value of Friends
- 2 – Friends conference
- 3 – Reducing carbon footprint on refuges
- 3 – Green transit – electric trams – Patuxent (MD)
- 4-5 – F2F
 - Sustainability – Ding Darling (FL)
 - Green fashion – Loxahatchee (FL)
 - Books – *Great Swamp: New Jersey's Natural Treasure*; reviewed by Laurel Gould
 - Books – *Backyard Birds*
- 6 – Water – managing water strategically
- 7 - Refuge birding guides – Santa Ana, Bombay Hook – *Mike Carlo*
- 8 – Honors
 - Marie Springer – vol of the year
 - Friends of Pool 9 – Friends of the year
 - Greg Siekaniec – manager of the year
 - Baron Horiuchi – employee of the year
 - David Obey/Dianne Feinstein – CARE awards
- 9 – Barns – Supawna Meadows, Canaan Valley
- 11 – Planning a special event – Okefenokee *Blaine Eckberg*
- 12 – Q&A – junior Friends groups – Muscatatuck, Cabeza Prieta, Alligator/Pea Island *Cindy Heffley*

Arts (October 2009)

- 1 – You've Gotta Have Art - *Ren Lohofener*
- 2 – Salmon Art Trail, Willapa, WA
- 3 – Wild Things Art Contest, Southeast LA Complex
- 4 – Birdfest and Bluegrass Festival, Ridgefield, WA
- 5 – Upper Tanana Migratory Bird Festival, Tetlin, AK
- 6 – Mapping the Rio Watershed Education Program, Bosque del Apache, NM
- 7 – River of Words, Whittlesey, WI
- 8 – Henshaw Creek Weir Science Camp, Kanuti, AK
- 9 – Nisqually Watershed Festival, Nisqually, WA
- 10 – Artist in Residence, Ninigret, RI – *Ana Flores*
- 11 – Tips on Planning Arts Events
- 11 – Other Notable Arts Projects – Walkill, NJ; Necedah, WI; Edwin B. Forsythe, NJ; Charles M. Russell, MT, Bear River, UT; Mississippi Sand Hill Crane, MS; Prime Hook, DE

