

The Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge



UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Club	6/22
Friends Meeting	7/20
Book Club	7/20
Book Club	8/17
Intern Talks every....	Sat. & Sun.
Refuge Headquarters: 321 Port Road, Wells	ctn. p.2

Refuge Updates

- The Cutts Island New England cottontail habitat restoration project is well on its way. Shrubs have been planted and vegetation monitoring has begun.
- There are six pairs of nesting piping plovers currently being watched by refuge staff.
- The least terns have returned and are nesting!
- Construction using stimulus funds has begun on the new residence for seasonal employees in Wells.
- There are 19 new staff members joining us for the summer.

Becoming a Friend

How often do you walk our trails? How often do we engage with you about how nice the day is, or about one particular species you saw? Do you share our goal of habitat conservation? Do you feel like you *need* Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge?

If so, you should join Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (RCNWR). We are a nonprofit organization that has been providing opportunities for our loving visitors to contribute to the enhancement of the refuge for over 20 years. While the refuge staff runs on federal funding and research grants, to provide a locally-supported event calen-

dar, we need our friends to tell us what you like.

By filling out the form on the back of this newsletter and joining the Friends, you would be contributing to the enhancement of our events. When we have enough friends speaking up suggesting land acquisition or more guided talks, we take notice.

The refuge provides our visitors some of the greatest trails in southern Maine and the assurance that local wildlife will be protected for future generations. As a Friend you would provide us with the opportuni-



"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."
~ Rachel Carson

ties to tailor our events to you and continue our conservation efforts, our local, loyal, lasting visitors.

Thank You!

A Message from the Refuge Manager

Dear Friends,

It has been some time since I have been able to write to you and much has happened. Most recently, I want to thank you for the productive work the board and members accomplished on the Timber Point, Biddeford, acquisition effort. I especially want to recognize Friends President, Bill Durkin, for his extraordinary efforts in the partnership to protect this undeveloped peninsula. Bill met with the congressional delegation in February 2009, and was one of five people in the country to testify before

the Appropriations' subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies at the House of Representative's Open Witness day. Bill's testimony read, in part,

"We ask your support of the acquisition of the 110 acre Timber Point property at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge... An appropriation of \$3.5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to be matched by an equal amount of private funds, is needed to protect this exceptional coastal property."

Due to your efforts, there was a \$3M appropriation and the private capital campaign for the balance is just now starting. Thanks also to Senators Collins, Snowe and Representative Pingree.

The refuge has a 15-year master plan which you can read at www.fws.gov/northeast/rachelcarson. For a more accessible entrée, stop by and visit with the manager or staff.

Ward Feurt

Refuge Updates

- The Cutts Island trail is being spruced up by Maine Conservation Corps.
- In Scarborough there are 5 acres of land being converted into New England cottontail habitat.
- Biologists are working with private land owners and land trusts to create potential cottontail habitat.
- Visit the Furbish Rd. overlook in Wells to see saltmarsh sparrows and other migrating shore birds.
- ARRA funding is being used for work on the Carson trail.
- New kiosks are arriving this summer at Furbish road overlook and Cutts Island Trail head.

For more refuge information visit headquarters (312 Port Rd., Wells, ME) our website (<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/rachelcarson/>) or call 207.646.9226.

Timber Point Initiative

Timber Point is one of the last large parcels of land under single ownership along the 50-mile coastline between Cape Elizabeth and Kittery. Located in Biddeford where the Little River meets the Atlantic, Timber Point is comprised of a 97-acre peninsula and a 13-acre island. Its shoreline offers both rocky ocean-front shore-line and a sheltered, sandy cove that are ideal habitat for a wide variety of wild-life, migratory birds, and waterfowl, and generations of visitors to Goose Rocks Beach have forever appreciated Timber Point's highly scenic, undisturbed back-drop. The Trust for Public Land, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Kenne-

bunkport Conservation Trust and the Friends are working together to protect these 110 acres at Timber Point, and add them to the Rachel Carson NWR.

The protection of Timber Point has been one of the Refuge's top conservation priorities for decades—a goal shared by Maine's conservation community. The property has been owned by one family for generations, and they have lived there lightly and gently, but they, like so many others, are at a crossroads and had initiated plans to sell the property. But, fortunately, they approach the conservation community first. The cost of the Timber Point acquisition is approximately

\$7,500,000. In October 2009, Congress appropriated \$3,000,000. for the purchase from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. But the initiative is not counting on public dollars to carry the whole cost of the project—the federal dollars brought to bear on the project will be matched by approximately \$4,000,000 in private philanthropy. Together, the combination of public and private support will complete this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is leading the way on the fundraising activities for the balance of the sale.

Join the Fun

This summer at RCNWR there is a lot going on. Besides the hatching of piping plovers and the cultivating of shrubland plants there is a lot of outreach programs too.

Each third Tuesday of the month there will be a book club meeting at 6 pm at headquarters to discuss literature on environmental issues with our biological technician, Kris Vagos. There will be talks given by our wonderful interns

every Saturday and Sunday at 10 am at headquarters about various topics.

Also a great outreach activity for kids is the plover backpack program. You can find interns at Parsons Beach every Saturday with back packs full of fun educational games to play.

Make a direct impact by helping with New England cottontail habitat restoration. on June 18th from 2 pm to 5 pm. We

will meet at Libby field in Scarborough. Please register prior to attending.

Make sure to attend the Friends of RCNWR meeting on July 20th at 5:30 pm at refuge headquarters!

If you have any questions, please contact us by phone (207.646.9226) or email Karrie Schwaab (karrie_schwaab@fws.gov).

Check out the great birding spots at refuge trails and overlooks.

Saltmarsh Sharp-Tailed Sparrow

Image by Brian Harris



A Message from the President

Hello Friends (or Friends to-be),

It has been years since we last compiled and printed a newsletter; to give you a detailed update of what has happen at the Refuge and with the Friends, would take up way more then this little section. Since our last mailing, we have had three board members pass away: Devon Hutchins, Bill Silliker and Horace Wood. They are greatly missed, their energies helped established the Friends as a significant player in the large conservation world of Maine. Our group is small with a loud voice. Over the years the Refuge has acquired and protected many acres throughout it's 11 divisions from Kittery up to Cape Elizabeth. The wildlife habitats range from salt marshes to tidal rivers to critical edge to

uplands to forested wetlands to vernal pools to fields and meadows to sand dunes and to the rocky shore, all of these natural components make the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge a truly unique and special place. We have kept busy with requesting support from Congress for land acquisitions and refuge management funding. The Maine Congressional Delegation has been extremely helpful in advocating for Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) to be used for the purchase of new properties. With the consistent letter writing and phone calls from our members to our congressional we have been very successful in adding over 5300 acres to the Refuge. We always need help and in particular, we are looking for a few new board members from the vari-

ous divisions, please let me know if you are interested (hts@gwi.net). One cannot escape the images of the oil soaked salt marshes as a result of the oil drilling accident; our thoughts are with those refuges along the Gulf of Mexico coastline. The Friends appreciate your continued interest and support of Rachel Carson NWR. You all are invited to a Friends meeting at Refuge Headquarters on July 20 at 5:30pm, I will give more of a detailed update at that time and will follow up in a later newsletter. (I'd like to thank Wendy Paterson, an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Refuge, for editing this newsletter.)

Bill Durkin
Biddeford Pool Division
207.283.8925

Thank you for becoming a member!

Name(s) _____
Current Address: Street _____
City, State _____ Zip _____
Email _____
Business (if applicable) _____

Please Check those that apply:

- Please renew my membership (no membership fee required)
- I am interested in making a donation (always welcomed)
- Please send me the newsletter via email to reduce cost to friends and environment



Your name and address will not be shared with any other organization

Personal:

Student (\$5) _____
Individual (\$10) _____
Family (\$25) _____

Contributing (\$50) _____
Patron (\$100) _____
Other _____

Corporate:

Supporting (\$100) _____
Sustaining (\$500) _____
Other _____

Please return to: Friends of Rachel Carson N.W.R., P.O. Box 427, Ocean Park, Maine 04063

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P.O. Box 427

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