



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

NOVEMBER

2016



Baywide Red Knot Meeting **By Wendy Walsh**

On November 10, 2016, the NJFO, the Chesapeake Bay Field Office, and Delaware Bay Estuary Project attended a Delaware baywide meeting on red knot along with the States of Delaware and New Jersey and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The meeting was hosted by John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. Participants discussed updating red knot capture and marking protocols; tracking projects using technologies such as geolocators, nanotags; spring surveys conducted by air and on the ground, USGS mathematical models that estimate the total numbers of knots passing through the bay each spring; and continued efforts to cooperate and share data. Congressional District 2. Photo Credit: Greg Breese, USFWS.





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Beach Management Presentation **By Wendy Walsh**

On November 17, 2016, NJFO's Wendy Walsh joined a panel presentation on managing rare, threatened, and endangered species on New Jersey's beaches. The presentation was given at the League of Municipalities annual conference in Atlantic City. Panelists discussed a recent Sea Grant dune manual, the recovery needs of the federally listed (threatened) plant seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), and recent research showing how rare plants and recreation can both be accommodated through thoughtful management of beach raking and driving. The panel was moderated by Mayor Jonathan Oldham of Harvey Cedars Borough, who also provided the municipal perspective on these issues.

NJFO staff work with municipalities and the State to protect listed species through Beach Management Planning. Fact sheet:

https://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/pdf/Beach_Manage_.pdf

Congressional Districts 2, 3, 4, and 6





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Piping Plover Habitat Workshop

By Wendy Walsh

On November 14 and 15, 2016, researchers examining the impacts of Hurricane Sandy on habitat suitability for the federally listed (threatened) piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) met at Rutgers University with the staff from NJFO as well as the Service's New York and Long Island Field Offices and the Northeast Regional Office. Researchers consisted of three groups, including Rutgers University / Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey (Rutgers/CWFNJ), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and Virginia Tech, who are independently modeling piping plover habitat suitability in the Sandy-affected region. The focal geographic area of the workshop included the New Jersey coastline extending from Sandy Hook Unit to Cape May, as well as the south shore of Long Island, New York. After the three research groups each presented their preliminary results, participants discussed similarities among the three, applications of the findings to coastal management, and future research needs to build on this work. Congressional Districts 2, 3, 4, and 6.



Piping plover

Credit: Gene Nieminen/USFWS



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All attendees from Virginia to Maine.

Region 5 Partners and Coastal Staff Training By Katie Conrad



Three Partners staff from the NJFO (Katie Conrad, Elizabeth Freiday, and Marc Virgilio) attended the Region 5 Partners and Coastal Staff Training in Burlington, VT earlier this month. This was the first time that Partners and Coastal staff have met together in over a decade, and the training was filled with presentations featuring restoration projects from throughout the region.

NJFO Partners Selfie. Photo Credit: Elizabeth Freiday, USFWS



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Wreck Pond Culvert Completion **By Katie Conrad**

On November 21, 2016, a press event was held to commemorate the completion of the Hurricane Sandy-funded Wreck Pond culvert project. Designed for fish passage, the culvert will help reduce local flooding during major storm events, and improve water quality within the pond. This project's success is owed to its extensive partnership with non-profits, local, County, State, and Federal agencies, including: American Littoral Society; the Boroughs of Spring Lake and Sea Girt; Monmouth County; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and USFWS. Congressional District 4.



Last hundred feet of culvert extending into the ocean adjacent to the existing culvert, which is not designed for fish passage. Photo Credit: Katie Conrad, USFWS



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*Happy
Thanksgiving*

A decorative illustration of a large orange pumpkin with a green stem, surrounded by golden wheat stalks and red autumn leaves.