



DRAFT PROGRAM AGENDA (February 5, 2009)

Conference Purpose

Advance and strengthen Friends organizations nationally through networking, skills-building and resource-sharing sessions that highlight key challenges, opportunities and trends and equip Friends with new and practical strategies for success. Sessions offered on a range of timely and practical topics under three tracks – Refuge System Resource Challenges; Tools, Programs and Strategies for Success; Friends Capacity Building – provide new and experienced Friends members, refuge managers, and staff with options to build depth in their organizations, gain a national perspective, and spearhead new ideas.

Saturday, February 21

- 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Check-in and Registration** (*Convention Registration Desk*)
- 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Village Green and Friends Exhibit Areas Open** (*Convention Registration Desk and Exhibit Hall A*)
- 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Social Reception** (*Virginia ABC*)
- 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. **Dinner** (*on your own*)

Sunday, February 22

- 6:30 – 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast** (*on your own*)
- 7:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Registration and Information** (*Convention Registration Desk*)
- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Friends Exhibits Area Open** (*Exhibit Hall A*)
- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** (*Marriot Salon 2 and 3*)
Rowan Gould, Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Evan Hirsche, President, National Wildlife refuge Association
- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **Keynote Address** (*Marriot Salon 2 and 3*)

- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Refuges and Conservation** (*Marriot Salon 2 and 3*)
Lynn Greenwalt, Former USFWS Director
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **BREAK** (*with service*)
- 10:30 – Noon **Concurrent Breakout Sessions** (*Maryland A, B and C; Virginia A, B and C; Washington Rooms 1-6*)

A variety of sessions offered concurrently under 3 separate “program tracks.” Conference participants may choose and participate in any of these sessions.

Program Track #1 – Refuge System Resource Challenges:

10:30 - Noon Choose one:

Climate Change – Implications for the NWRS
Dr. Mike Scott, University of Idaho

Fire Management on Refuges
John Segar, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Karen Miranda Gleason, National Wildlife Refuge System
Stephen Jakala, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Invasive Species
Michael Lusk, National Wildlife Refuge System
Jenny Ericson, National Wildlife Refuge System

Emerging Trends: Issues that Extend from “Beyond the Boundaries” – Water Resources and Land (*Rm.*)
David Houghton, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions

Program Track #2: Tools, Programs and Strategies for Success:

10:30 – Noon Choose one:

Citizen Science Programs for Engaging the Public
Dr. Janis Dickinson, Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Sandra Henderson, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and Project Budburst

Organizing in the Age of Connectivity
Martin Kearns, Green Media Toolshed
Nina Schwartz, Green Media Toolshed

Working with Diverse Audiences – Making Refuges More Inclusive
Dudley Edmondson, Raptor Works
Gus Medina, Environmental Education Training Partnership

Building Coalitions and Working With Partners for Landscape Level Conservation

Anne Truslow, National Wildlife Refuge Association, Facilitator

Lace Blue-McLean, Friends of Chassahowitzka NWR, FL

Jad Daley, Trust for Public Land & Friends of the Silvio O. Conte NFWR

Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, FWS

Program Track #3: Friends Capacity Building

10:30 - Noon

Choose one:

Avoiding Burnout - Building Sustainable Leadership and Succession Planning Into Your Friends Organization

Doug Seale, Friends of Assabet NWR

Developing and Energizing Your Board

Bob Greene, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Recruiting New and Retaining Membership

Iantha Gantt-Wright, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Managing Your Friends Organization Effectively

Peter Lane, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch (*On Your Own*)

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Cont.)

A continuation of breakout sessions offered concurrently under three separate “program tracks.” Conference participants may choose and participate in any of these sessions.

Program Track #1 – Refuge System Resource Challenges:

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Choose one:

Climate Change – Implications for the NWRS

Dr. Mike Scott, University of Idaho

Noah Kahn, Defenders of Wildlife

Fire Management on Refuges

John Segar, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Karen Miranda Gleason, National Wildlife Refuge System

Stephen Jakala, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Invasive Species

Michael Lusk, National Wildlife Refuge System

Jenny Ericson, National Wildlife Refuge System

Emerging Trends: Issues that Extend from “Beyond the Boundaries” – Water Resources and Land

David Houghton, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions

Program Track #2: Tools, Programs and Strategies for Success:

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Choose one:

Citizen Science Programs for Engaging the Public

Janis Dickinson, Cornell University

Sandra Henderson, Project Budburst – University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, Boulder

Organizing in the Age of Connectivity

Martin Kearns, Green Media Toolshed

Nina Schwartz, Green Media Toolshed

Working with Diverse Audiences – Making Refuges More Inclusive

Dudley Edmondson, Raptor Works

Gus Medina, Environmental Education Training Partnership

Building Coalitions and Working With Partners for Landscape Level Conservation

Anne Truslow, NWRA (To Facilitate)

Lace Blue-McLean, Friends of Chassahowitzka NWR, FL

Jad Daley, Trust for Public Land & Friends of the Silvio O. Conte NFWR

Kathy O’Reilly-Doyle, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, FWS

Program Track #3: Friends Capacity Building

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Choose one:

Avoiding Burnout - Building Sustainable Leadership and Succession Planning Into Your Friends Organization

Doug Seale, Friends of Assabet NWR

Developing and Energizing Your Board

Bob Greene, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Recruiting New and Retaining Membership

Iantha Gantt-Wright, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Volunteer Recruitment and Management

Peter Lane, Institute for Conservation Leadership

- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. **BREAK** (*with service*)
- 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. **Village Green and Friends Exhibit Areas Open** (*Convention Registration Desk and Exhibit Hall A*)
- 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. **Concurrent Breakout Sessions** (Cont.)

A continuation of breakout sessions offered concurrently under three separate “program tracks.” Conference participants may choose and participate in any of these sessions.

Program Track #1 – Refuge System Resource Challenges:

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Choose one:

Climate Change – Implications for the NWRS

Dr. Mike Scott, University of Idaho
Noah Kahn, Defenders of Wildlife

Fire Management on Refuges

John Segar, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Karen Miranda Gleason, National Wildlife Refuge System
Stephen Jakala, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Invasive Species

Michael Lusk, National Wildlife Refuge System
Jenny Ericson, National Wildlife Refuge System

State and Local Land Use – Impact On Refuges

Austin Kane, National Wildlife Federation
Rob Burness, Stone Lakes NWR Association

Program Track #2: Tools, Programs and Strategies for Success:

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Choose one:**

Building Support for the NWRS – CARE

Desiree Sorenson-Groves, NWRA
Noah Kahn, Defenders of Wildlife
Maribeth Oakes, The Wilderness Society
Susan Recee, National Rifle Association
Scott Kovarovics, Izaak Walton League of America

Leveraging Federal Funding Sources for Land Conservation

Anne Truslow, National Wildlife Refuge Association
Dan Sakura, The Conservation Fund
Ken Kriese, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, FWS
Maddy Pope & Kelly Niland, The Trust for Public Land

NWRS Birding Initiative – Connecting Birders and Refuges

Roy Lowe, Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Wayne R. Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon

Transportation Programs – Big Opportunities for Friends

Sean Furniss, National Wildlife Refuge System

Trisha White, Defenders of Wildlife

Program Track #3: Friends Capacity Building

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. **Choose one:**

Volunteer Recruitment and Management

Peter Lane, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Nurturing a Productive Friends Partnership

Mark Musaus, National Wildlife Refuge System

Kathy Woodward, Friends of Great Swamp NWR

Working with the Media

Brad Phillips, Phillips Media Relations

Martha Nudel, National Wildlife Refuge System

Writing Successful Grants

Iantha Gantt-Wright, Institute for Conservation Leadership

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Reception and Refuge System Awards Dinner** (*Marriot Salon 2 and 3*)

Monday, February 23

6:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast** (*on your own*)

7:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Registration and Information** (*Convention Registration Desk*)

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Village Green and Friends Exhibit Areas Open** (*Convention Registration Desk and Exhibit Hall A*)

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

A continuation of concurrent breakout sessions. Conference participants may choose and participate in any of these sessions.

Program Track #1 – Refuge System Resource Challenges:

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **One Offering:**

State and Local Land Use – Impact On Refuges

Austin Kane, National Wildlife Federation
Rob Burness, Stone Lakes NWR Association

Program Track #2: Tools, Programs and Strategies for Success:

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Choose One:**

Building Support for the NWRS – CARE

Desiree Sorenson-Groves, NWRA
Noah Kahn, Defenders of Wildlife
Maribeth Oakes, The Wilderness Society
Susan Recee, National Rifle Association
Scott Kovarovics, Izaak Walton League of America

Leveraging Federal Funding Sources for Land Conservation

Anne Truslow, National Wildlife Refuge Association
Dan Sakura, The Conservation Fund
Ken Kriese, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, FWS
Maddy Pope & Kelly Niland, The Trust for Public Land

NWRS Birding Initiative – Connecting Birders and Refuges

Roy Lowe, Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Wayne R. Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon

Transportation Programs – Big Opportunities for Friends

Sean Furniss, National Wildlife Refuge System
Trisha White, Defenders of Wildlife

Program Track #3: Friends Capacity Building

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Choose One:**

Developing a Strategic Plan for Your Friends Organization

Bob Greene, Institute for Conservation Leadership
Marguerite Hills, Friends of Ridgefield NWR

Nurturing a Productive Friends Partnership

Mark Musaus, National Wildlife Refuge System
Kathy Woodward, Friends of Great Swamp NWR

Running a Successful and Profitable Nature Store

Neil Gladner, Wild Birds of America, Inc.
Sandee Larsen, Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Working with the Media

Brad Phillips, Phillips Media Relations
Martha Nudel, National Wildlife Refuge System

Writing Successful Grants

Iantha Gantt-Wright, Institute for Conservation Leadership

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **BREAK** *(with service)*

10:30 - Noon **Open Topical Forums**

These highly participatory, Friends-led sessions will provide facilitated “experience-sharing” among Friends based on topics solicited from Friends during the online conference registration process. Selected topics will be used as the basis for each of the moderated sessions.

Noon – 1:30 p.m. **Regional Meeting Boxed Lunch Sessions**

Meet with other representatives in your region for a moderated discussion of topics that affect your refuge.

Region 1 (Pacific) *(Rm. TBD)*

Region 2 (Southwest) *(Rm. TBD)*

Region 3 (Midwest) *(Rm. TBD)*

Region 4 (Southeast) *(Rm. TBD)*

Region 5 (Northeast) *(Rm. TBD)*

Region 6 (Mountain-Prairie) *(Rm. TBD)*

Region 7 (Alaska) *(Rm. TBD)*

Region 8 (California-Nevada) *(Rm. TBD)*

1:30 – 1:45 p.m. **BREAK**

1:45 – 3:00 p.m. **Congressional View: The Long-Term Needs of the Refuge System – Panel Discussion** *(Marriot Salon 2 and 3)*

Greg Knadle, House Appropriations Committee

Scott Dalzell, Senate Appropriations Committee

Dave Jansen, House Natural Resources Committee

TBD, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee

Jonathan Birdsong, Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. **BREAK** *(with service)*

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. **Leadership Panel: Moderated Dialogue Between Friends and NWRS Leadership** *(Marriot Salon 2 and 3)*

Greg Siekaniec, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System

Evan Hirsche, President, National Wildlife Refuge Association

4:15 – 5:00 p.m. **Conference Wrap-Up and Close Out** *(Marriot Salon 2 and 3)*