



# Friends of the Great Swamp



FrOGS

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[www.frogs-ny.org](http://www.frogs-ny.org)

## ART EXHIBIT and

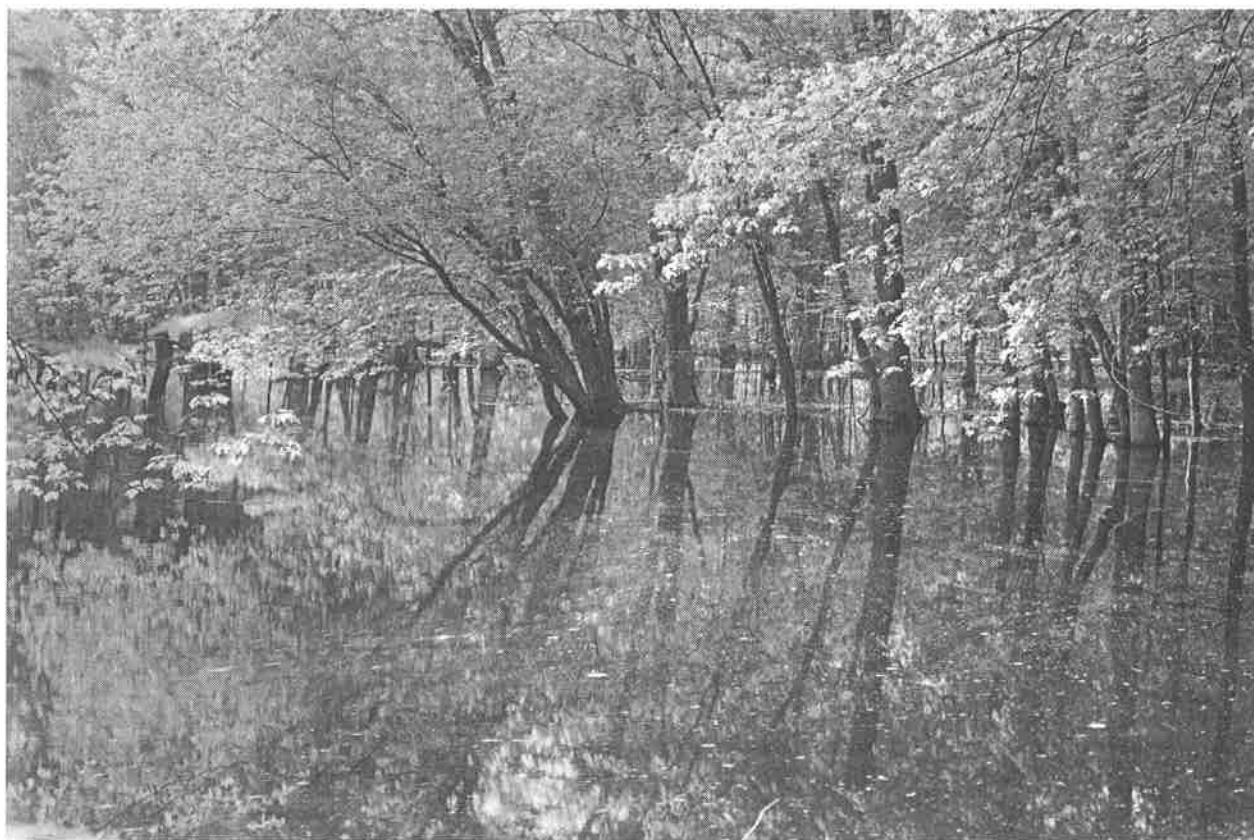
## Celebration of The Great Swamp

Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

11am-7pm

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

11am-6pm



*Photo of The Swamp by Norman McGrath*

# Come to the Art Show ! Celebrate the SWAMP !

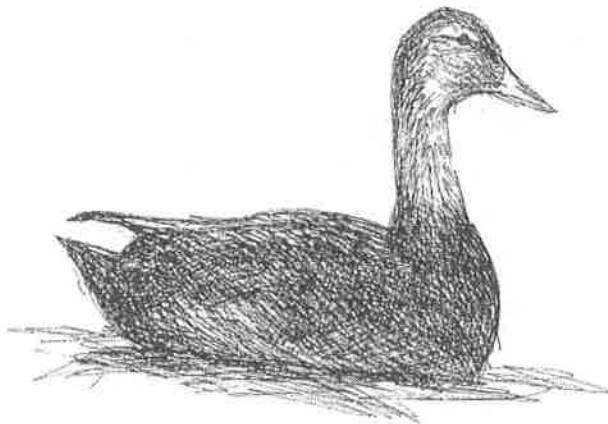
Join FrOGS on  
Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 11am-7pm  
Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 11am-6pm  
The Frances Ryan Thomas Memorial Hall  
Christ Church, Pawling

Join FrOGS for a day of family fun and Celebrate the SWAMP. The art exhibit features local artists. There will be paintings, drawings, woodcarvings, photography and stained glass on display. Many of the artists' creations were inspired by the SWAMP and share the artists' feelings about the great bounty to be found there.

Children from many of our local schools will exhibit their art as well. The creatures of the SWAMP, as well as the flowers and trees that live there, fascinate our younger exhibitors.

As a special treat students from Carmel High School, who enter the New York State Duck Stamp Competition, will exhibit their artwork as well.

In addition there will also be live animals, refreshments and many other exhibits.



## Debbie Mumford of The Nature of Things Will bring her Animals

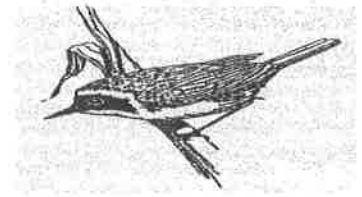


Debbie Mumford of the Nature of Things will be back again this year with her animals. She will share with us many animals but especially those we are likely to find in the SWAMP.

We will learn about the lives and habitats of these animals. Some of the animals featured will include snakes, opossum, river otter, turtles, and frogs.

# International Migratory Bird Day

## May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003

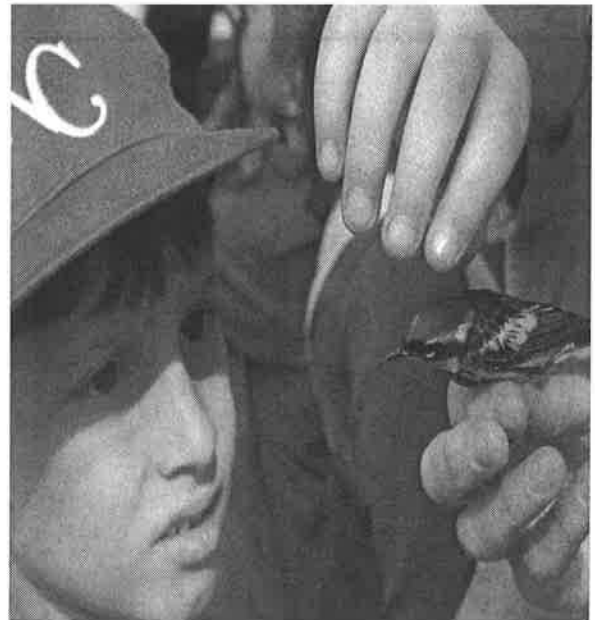


International Migratory Bird Day celebrates the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America. The event, which takes place on the second Saturday in May each year, encourages bird conservation and increases awareness of birds through hikes, bird watching, information about birds and migration, public events, and a variety of other education programs.

We had a choice that day – to let the kids play baseball or catch birds. The birds won out. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, FrOGS participated in International Migratory Bird Day, an event that celebrated the return of migratory birds to the unique landscape of the Great Swamp.

We began on the evening of May 9<sup>th</sup> with the slides of John Askildsen of Bedford Audubon Society. John also amazed the audience with his talent of imitating the calls of many birds native to the SWAMP. Then, to the excitement of the audience, Dona Tracey, of the Hudson Valley Raptor Center, treated approximately 70 birders to a close up view of owls and raptors. We could hardly keep our seats as she walked the room with them on her hand.

On Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> we had a choice, baseball or birds? After a debate, the birds were chosen!



*Eye to Eye with a Magnolia Warbler*



*A thrush is being held carefully while band is attached*

As Dr. Jim Utter placed a Magnolia Warbler in my son's hand and they stared into each other's eyes – there was little doubt we had made the right decision. We had birds to catch!! The many children that attended the bird banding session were holding bags of them, ready to be banded for study before being released by the many eager attendees.

Although the birds and their journey are the reason for the day, there is another thing just as magical. It is the ability to visit the inspiring places they depend upon for their survival. There was the peaceful morning walk at Sharparoon, the mystique of the Great Swamp that makes you feel somewhere foreign, the inspiring waterfalls at Michael Ciaiola Conservation Area and the stillness of Cedar Lake.

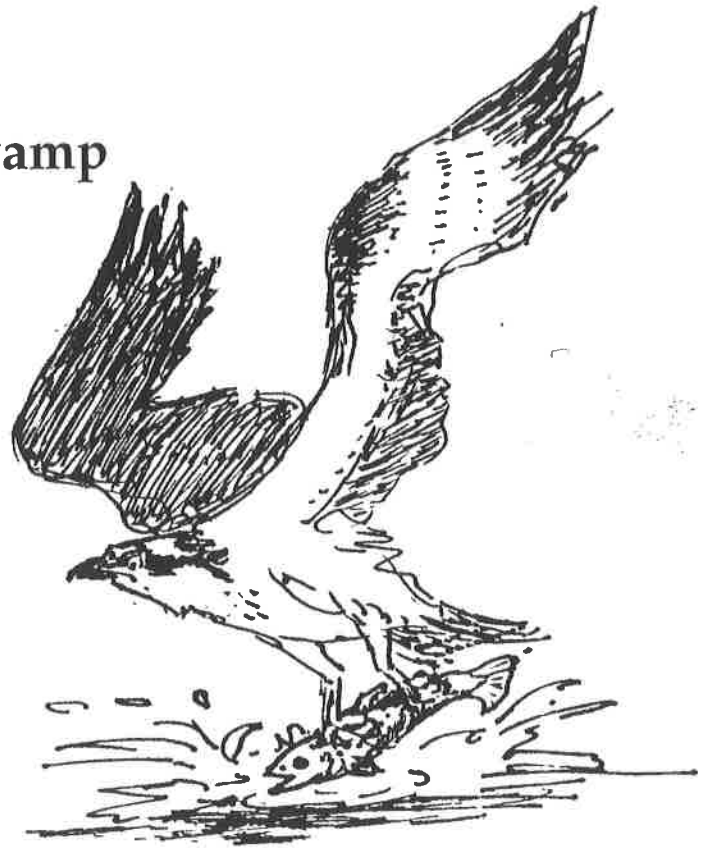
Just 6 more months until the Magnolia Warblers report for spring training. I can't wait to catch them on Bird Day!

Submitted by Bob Dumont

# Osprey or Fish Hawk

## Migratory Visitor to the Swamp

Ospreys are among the most amazing visitors to the Swamp. We see them most frequently on Ice Pond during spring and fall migration. A few stay longer, traveling back and forth between ponds and lakes in the Swamp corridor. Watching a hovering osprey suddenly fold its wings to drop feet first, hitting the water and rising with a large mouth bass locked in its talons is really a thrilling sight.



### Osprey or Eagle?

Ospreys are large raptors with a white crest and belly and a dark back. They are often mistaken for Bald Eagles since both have white on their heads and can be found near water. This hawk does not fly with its long wings extended out from its body like the eagle but slightly bent back at the wrist or elbow. Dark patches at each elbow stand out when the osprey flies overhead. It also has a distinct dark band that sweeps like a mask from the back of its head to its strongly hooked beak. The lack of a completely white head and a banded tail instead of a pure white one are field marks that will help distinguish an adult osprey from an adult eagle. The profile of an osprey with the wind ruffling its crest rivals the majesty of the eagle.

### Ospreys Fish!

Ospreys will hover high above the water searching for the shadow or flash of a fish below and then drop like a bullet from the sky, hitting the water with their powerful talons outstretched. Their legs are long and covered with very short feathers that won't drag in the water. According to The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds the bottoms of an osprey's feet are equipped with sharp spines to help grip their slippery prey. Osprey must have the grasp and muscle needed to pull a struggling fish out of the water and carry it to a roost in a nearby tree before it can dine on its meal. Some fish are so large the osprey can barely get airborne again even with the lift from their 2 to 3 foot wings.

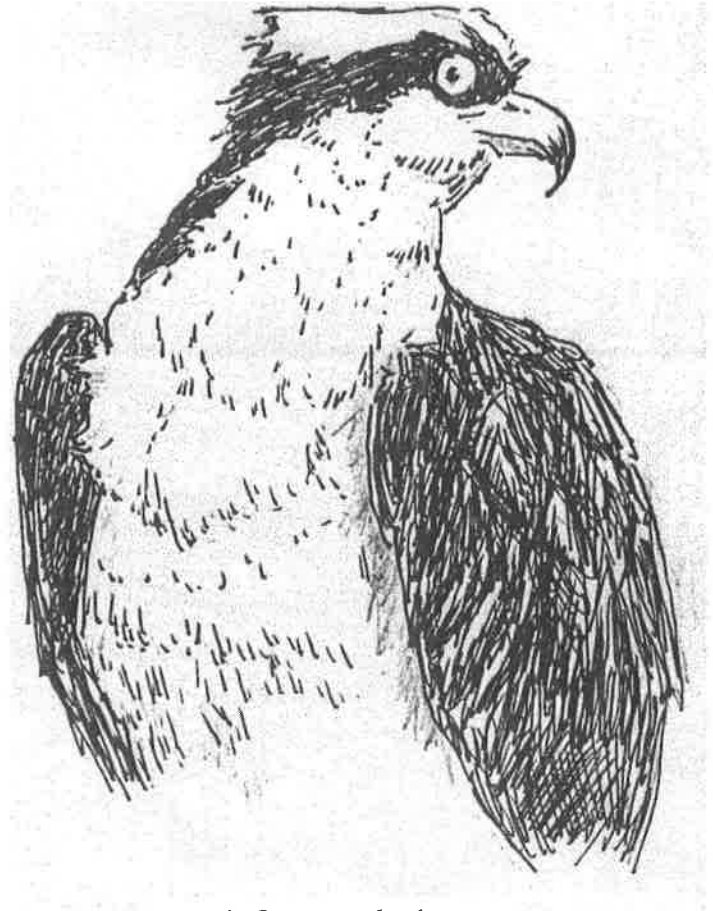
# Osprey or Fish Hawk

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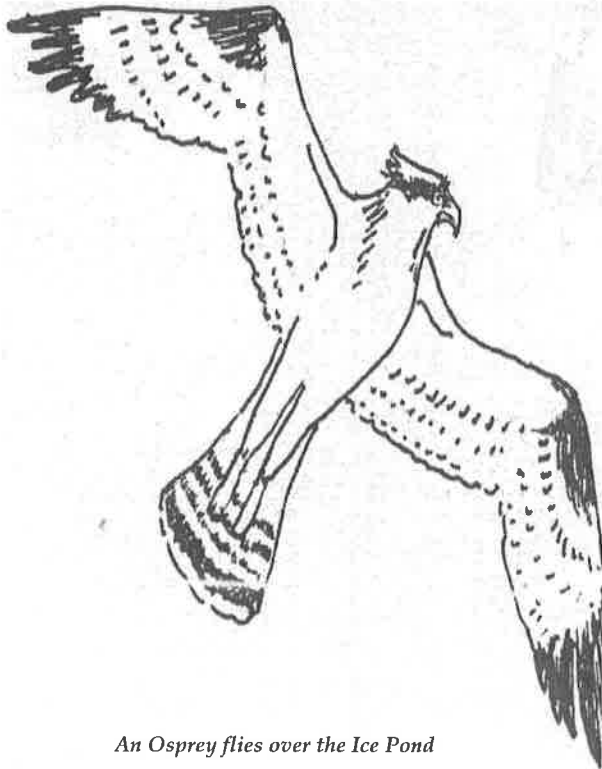
Osprey nests look like bathtub sized bundles of sticks in the tops of dead trees, on rocky ledges or even the tops of telephone poles. Coastal communities often build platforms on tall poles to create nesting spots for these handsome birds.

Watch for the "fish hawk" this fall around lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in the Croton and Swamp River watersheds as they work their way south along the Atlantic Flyway.

Submitted by Judy Kelley Moberg



*An Osprey searches for prey*



*An Osprey flies over the Ice Pond*



## **FrOGS Would Like To Thank:**

Norman McGrath for his photo of the Swamp.  
Bob Dumont for his story and pictures of Bird Day.  
Judy Kelley Moberg for her story and drawings.  
Sybill Gilbert for her story.  
Gordon Douglas for his photo.  
Karen O'Neill for her editing.

# Easement on Special Conservation Area Donated to the Oblong Land Conservancy



A special fen meadow, vernal pools, a splendid grove of mature native hemlock and rare plants and animals, preserved in a conservation area; the lovely wetlands, and rolling landscape of old fields and woods and steep hills that are part of a conservation easement on 157 acres of the Cushman Farms Subdivision. The developer, Peckham Industries, has donated this conservation easement to the Oblong Nature Conservancy. This ensures that the intent of the Planning Board, to conserve the critical natural features on this special property, will not be violated. A precedent setting feature of this easement is the inclusion of a habitat management plan for the rare species in the conservation area. The study of the site and the written management plan was done by Hudsonia, Ltd., one of our region's most respected and qualified scientific consultants. Oblong will have the applicable areas monitored annually, or as needed, by a qualified consultant, who will make recommendations regarding management issues that may need to be addressed in the future. Peckham Industries is providing additional funding to reimburse Oblong for these estimated expenses. A trail system, limited to pedestrian use, will be available to all the 29 homeowners, for their enjoyment.

In addition, Peckham has allowed public access to designated trails in the conservation area. Design and layout of the trails, will more or less follow existing access trails/drives on the property. The proposed trails will have trailheads and access from Cushman Road.

The subdivision is located between the Metro-North tracks and scenic Cushman Road in southern Pawling and includes significant acreage in The Great Swamp. This new 29-lot sub-division consumed years of painstaking review work by the Planning Board. Input from DEP, NYS DEC and the DEC Endangered Species Unit, FroGS, and recommendations from The Oblong Land Conservancy, and the developer, Peckham Industries, finally resulted in a unique conservation subdivision that protects the rare elements of this landscape, the wetlands, and some of this landscape, the wetlands, and some of the upland areas, in a design that is adapted to the developer's marketing interests. Lot sizes vary from 4 to 10 acres, and all homeowners have access to the superb open spaces, which they will own in common: land that stays on the tax rolls. Submitted by Sibyll Gilbert, Vice Chair, Oblong Land Conservancy

# Peter Hartford Dunlop

## 1933 - 2003

FrOGS has lost a really dear friend. On July 8, 2003 Peter Dunlop, master chef and landscape designer, lost his six-month battle with cancer. Since the first Great Swamp Celebration and Art Show, Peter had showed off his many talents by providing all the wonderful dips and other snacks for the hundreds of people who attended. In his striped apron and with his wide, friendly smile he welcomed everyone who came to sample his many refreshments. His imaginative decorations showed off his talents with plant materials setting a lovely stage for the Art Show. He could often be heard telling his many tales or singing Broadway tunes.

Peter was a person of exceptional warmth and enthusiasm and never at a loss for ideas. His generosity of his time and talent were boundless. He contributed many innovative ideas that FrOGS embraced for the Art Show. He was always the first to arrive and the last to leave after the clean up. His energy never flagged.

Peter's love of children was all encompassing and he was "Uncle Peter" to hundreds. For this reason FrOGS has created a special memorial in his name. Contributions to this fund will be used for an annual special Peter Dunlop Award to one of the young exhibitors from our local schools that are an important part of the Art Show.

If you wish to remember Peter's many contributions to FrOGS, a donation will be welcomed in his name. Please mark your check "Peter Hartford Dunlop Fund" and send to FrOGS, PO Box 373, Pawling, New York 12564.



*Peter Dunlop wearing his "trademark" apron at the 2001 Art Exhibit.*

*Friends of the Great Swamp is an organization dedicated to Preserving the Great Swamp through educational programs, Scientific projects, special events, and making all aware of this wonderful resource in our midst.*

*The generosity of our members and supporters extends FrOGS reach and effectiveness. Contributions support the efforts of the Education Committee, The Spring Celebration, and this newsletter. Please consider a tax-deductible gift to FrOGS.*

*Send your gift to:  
Friends of the Great Swamp  
P.O. Box 373, Pawling, NY 12564*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: Day \_\_\_\_\_  
    Evening \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**We Need Help!**  
 If you can lend a hand with any of any of the following, please place a check on line and we will call you.

_____ Spring Celebration	_____ Publicity
_____ Education Committee	_____ Mailings
_____ Art Show	_____ Other