



Friends of the Great Swamp



FrOGS

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Celebration of the Swamp Art Exhibit

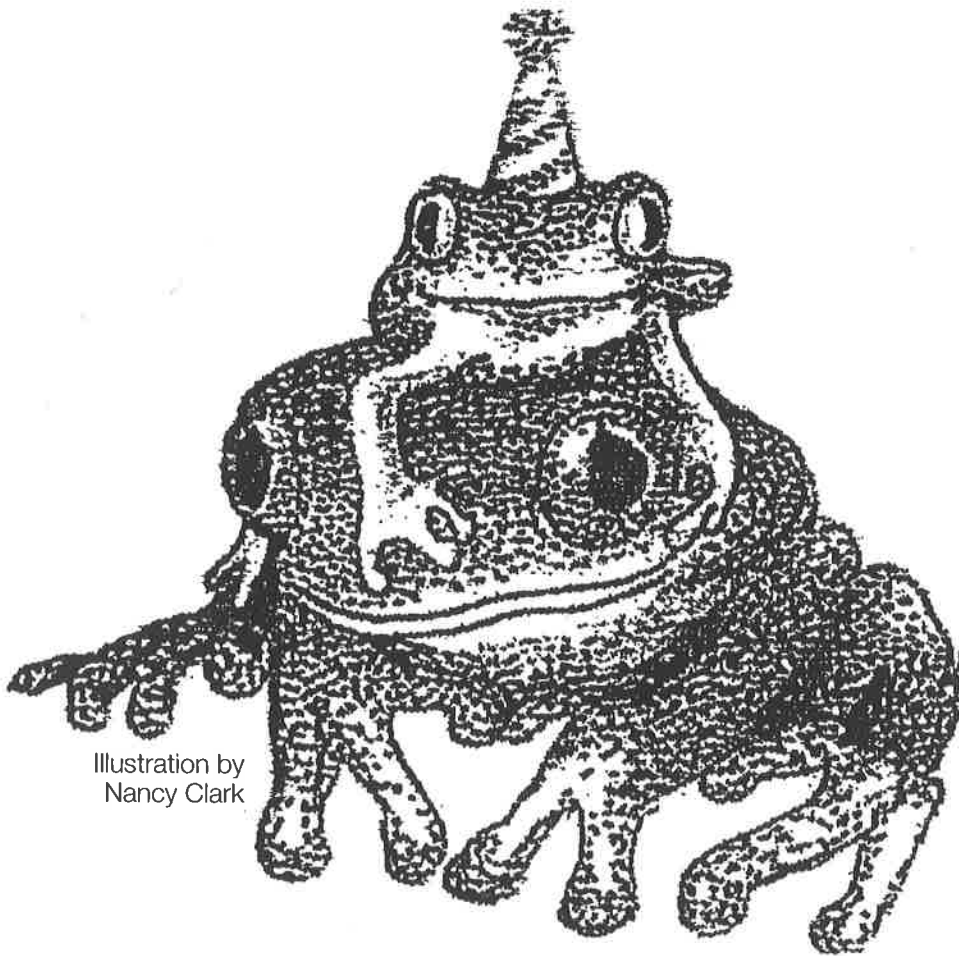


Illustration by
Nancy Clark

Join FrOGS on

Friday, October 21st, 3PM–6PM

Saturday, October 22nd, 11AM–5PM

Sunday, October 23rd, 1PM–4PM

The Frances Ryan Memorial Hall, Christ Church

Church Street, Pawling, New York

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Celebration of the Swamp & Art Exhibit

(Continued from Cover)

The Great Swamp Art Show and celebration is back again this year with more artists and live animal exhibits than ever!

Artists will express their vision of the swamp and nature through drawings, collage, silkscreen prints, woodcarvings, pottery, and photography. Among the returning artists are; Vincent Bihn, a wildlife artist whose work has been featured in the "New York State Conservationist", Norman McGrath a noted photographer whose Great Swamp slide show has delighted us in the past as well as his colorful mushroom studies, Hal Weiss and his bird and animal woodcarvings and the Cat Rock artists group seen at many local shows.

Children's art is always a very important part of the Celebration. Schools that adjoin the Great Swamp from Dover to Brewster are invited to display their work. They are the stewards of tomorrow and their art teachers are to be commended for encouraging their creativity and their appreciation of nature. We have had paper maché animals marching two by two across the floor, incredible ceramic turtles, sensitive landscape sketches, a fabulous mural of all the animals and plants in the swamp, and the outstanding student entries to the New York State Duck Stamp competition. This year we've added an Art Competition for high school students in memory of Peter Dunlop, who was a great supporter of FrOGS and the arts.

Environmental educator and falconer Jim Eyring will bring his hawks and owls again this year. Jim's not only an expert in the field but his enthusiasm is catching. You'll get a chance to see his birds up close as well as watching Jim fly his birds outside (weather permitting). Watching his raptors fly free has been such an awesome experience for visitors that we invited Jim to be with us both Saturday and Sunday this year.

Debbie Mumford and "The Nature of Things" will be with us on both Saturday and Sunday. Debbie brings animals that can teach children about similar animals that might be found in the Great Swamp. This is very popular with the younger children who enjoy getting close to

turtles, snakes, frogs and even ferrets. Young aspiring artists will have a chance to create their own works of art under the watchful eye of Cherie Ingraham, who will share her stories of "Chuckie Goodnight" with the children.

There will be educational exhibits on plants and animals, the "care and feeding" of The Great Swamp (environmental concerns) and our usual spread of tasty refreshments. No celebration would be complete without the culinary delights of Bill Hamilton, his son Derek and our kitchen crew.

Back by request both Saturday and Sunday, will be Shirl Lawrence and Steve Kaplan, of the Clearwater Walkabout Chorus, with their lovely music to warm your heart and sooth your soul as you wander through the exhibits.

If you missed your chance to buy colorful Great Swamp tee shirts and caps they will be available. Artists who wish to sell their work will post a sale price, a portion of which, returns to FrOGS. Although this is a free educational event and art show, donations are always appreciated to support the work of FrOGS in protecting The Great Swamp as a valuable natural resource for the State of New York.

Join Us!

Friday, October 21st, 3PM-6PM

Saturday, October 22nd, 11AM-5PM

Sunday, October 23rd, 1PM-4PM

The Frances Ryan Memorial Hall, Christ Church
Church Street, Pawling, New York 12564

We Need Volunteers to help at the Art Show

SET UP: Thursday, October 20th 3PM-9PM. Some strong volunteers to set up the exhibit screens and others to help with the educational exhibits

GREET VISITORS: Friday, October 21st, 3PM-6PM, Saturday, October 22nd, 11AM-5PM and Sunday, October 23rd, 1PM-4PM

ART TOUR: Sunday October 23rd, 10AM-1PM and 1PM-4PM

FOOD: Help out on Saturday and Sunday

BAKE: For Sunday Morning—cookies and breads

CLEAN UP: Sunday, October 23rd from 4PM-7PM. Strong volunteers needed to take down the exhibit screens and help with everything else

Volunteers Call Evelyn Chiarito at 845-877-6498

The Oblong Land Conservancy Accepts Donation of Zaengle Property

The Swamp River: a favorite haven for herons, who stand patiently on the look out for small fish, not too distant from the humans who stand patiently with rod in hand, looking out for the big one. That is the scene on River Road in Pawling, at the bridge at the Swamp River. The Swamp River, a small stream as far as "rivers" go, is not all that impressive; its primary distinction being its north flowing direction, a rare geographical twist. But the view at this spot at River Road is lovely!



Photo by Sibyll Gilbert

Anna Marie and Donald Zaengle donated the 9.5 acre parcel that frames the view, located across the road from their home, to the Oblong Land Conservancy. The donation includes 402' of frontage on the Swamp River, and a major section of Weir Brook, which conjoins the river at the eastern end of the property. The wooded swamp in this area has not been degraded. A significant strip of wooded upland on the property adjoins the swamp and provides a critical buffer zone of protection from neighboring development. At the roadside area, the nature lover can enjoy seeing diminutive gnatcatchers (birds smaller than chickadees), rambling through the tree tops searching for bugs; along with bluebirds, orioles, rare willow flycatchers and various waterfowl, during the course of the seasons.

At the author's last visit at the end of July, the swamp roses were in bloom, and monarch butterflies were sipping the nectar of the blooming sumac.

The Zaengles, who joined Pawling's community many years ago, and raised their children here, have been good stewards of this land. The Conservancy is indeed grateful to this family for their generous gift.

This is the fourth preserve that the Conservancy has acquired in Pawling and Dover. We are seeking volunteers to monitor and help us to maintain our preserves. Please phone the Conservancy at 855-5993, or contact Sibyll Gilbert at 855-3266 for details regarding these rewarding opportunities. Help the Oblong Land Conservancy and FrOGS in their efforts to provide for the proper "CARE AND FEEDING OF THE GREAT SWAMP AND ITS WATERSHED."

Submitted by Sibyll Gilbert,
Vice Chair, Oblong Land Conservancy

MACROS

The "Canaries of the Stream"

MACROS or *macroinvertebrates*, are critters without backbones that are large enough to be seen with the naked eye. The various species that live in a stream can be used to determine its water quality.

A stream corridor is like an insect highway. Most *MACROS*, are the aquatic stages of insects like mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies that live on the stream bottom. The larvae or nymph forms often bear no resemblance to the adult. Armed with segmented bodies, six jointed legs with claws, and sharp jaws they look a little formidable under the magnifying glass.

They are a critical part of the food web between plants and fish. *MACROS* are affected by the physical, chemical and biological factors in that stream. Specific species are sensitive or insensitive to pollution and can *act as indicators* of stream health. Pollution tolerance values are given for each species. The lower the number the less tolerant the organism. For example stoneflies have a low toleration value of 1.0 while aquatic worms, and leeches are given a value of 8.0 indicating they can live in very polluted conditions. The total tolerance value for all the *MACROS* collected determines the *BIOTIC INDEX* for the stream. This index number is matched to a water quality rating scale which ranges from excellent to severely polluted.

MACROS are divided into groups based on their feeding strategy. There are shredders, collectors, scrapers, piercers, and predators. They eat leaves and other organisms like bacteria, diatoms, fungi, algae and other macroinvertebrates



that work to break down the surface of the leaf. Their activities help to dissolve the organic matter into a kind of "watershed tea" which becomes an energy source for the stream.

A wide forested buffer zone (Riparian Zone) surrounding the stream is critical to its health and should be considered part of the stream itself. It creates an interconnected travel corridor for birds and animals. The trees trap and filter surface runoff, control erosion and decrease water temperature increasing the amount of oxygen in the stream. *Trees create leaf litter, the "energy source" for all the organisms in the stream.*

A "hands-on" course in stream monitoring sponsored by the Putnam-Westchester Industry and Science Alliance or PWISTA was offered at Mahopac High School this past summer. One of the presenters was Stroud Water Research Center. They designed a monitoring program where students create "Leaf Packs", place them in their study stream according to a preset experimental design and retrieve them a month later. Armed with identification keys they count the macros



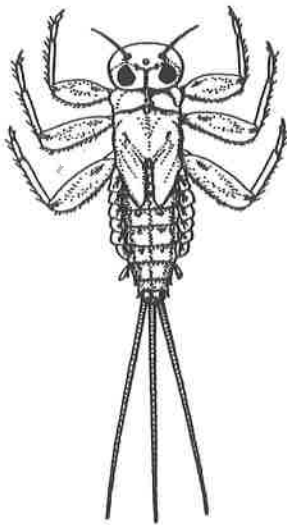
present and calculate the stream's Biotic Index. The data gathered is entered into the Leaf Pack Network, which allows students to share data with other schools and track changes in their study stream over time.

Placing the Leaf Packs

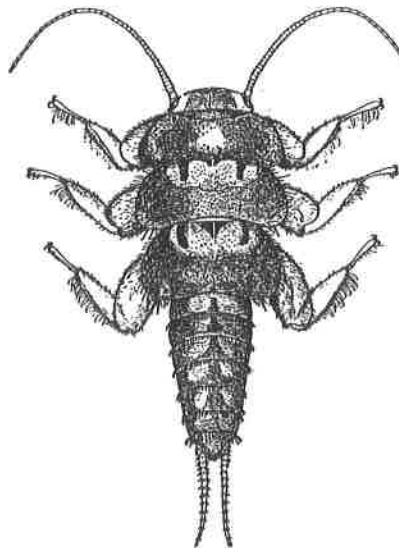
This fall we are field-testing the "Leaf Pack" model on two streams that drain into Muddy

Brook and enter the Great Swamp near Pine Island. Five board members (Rick Saracelli, Liz Cowan, Lauri Taylor, Edie Keasbey and Judy Kelley-Moberg) volunteered to work through the Stroud protocol on the stream sites and to create and place the leaf packs. We filled out a physical description sheet for the 100-meter, region where the leaf packs were to be placed in each stream. The sites were located with a GPS unit and the water and air temperature was recorded. Stream velocity was a little tricky as all the objects we floated downstream kept snagging on the rocks. Thirty grams of "site specific" leaves were stuffed into the mesh leaf pack bags, labeled, and three packs were secured to underwater rocks along the 100-meter stream section in each stream. We plan to leave the leaf packs in the streams until the beginning of October when we will remove them to study and count the macros that (we hope!) inhabit each pack. Then we can calculate the BIOTIC INDEX of each stream at that site. This will give us a base line for each site. The same procedure will be repeated at the same sites in the spring and with a little more experience using the Leaf Pack model we will expand the program and involve interested volunteers.

Judy Kelley Moberg



Mayfly



Stonefly



Caddisfly

Making A Difference

One motivated high school biology teacher with a passion for teaching and sharing his concerns about "clean water" can accomplish amazing things! Bob Connick, a biology teacher at Mahopac High School has integrated water quality monitoring into his classroom. His students take to the field (the stream) in hip boots, and neither rain nor snow keeps them from gathering data. Students master chemical tests for chlorides, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, pH, and alkalinity. They also study the macroinvertebrates living in the stream with kick nets and Leaf Packs. A naturalist from Teatown assisted the class as part of their Water Quality Education Program.



Working with Trout Unlimited, his students have participated in "Trout in the Classroom", raising and releasing trout into the Muscote River. This year they invited a class from a city school that drinks water from the Croton Watershed up to Mahopac High School. Bob's students took them into the field and taught them how to test for water quality. They were shocked at what they found, "Is this is the water we drink?" Later, both classes waded into the Muscote River to release the trout Bob's students had raised in the classroom.

Requests from local residents for information on their streams and ponds prompted Bob to develop a student Stream Water Assessment Team. Tee shirt logos identify this traveling water monitoring group as the S.W.A.T. team.

Bob and his students have collected data on streams, lakes and ponds in the Croton Watershed for over seven years. His data has been recorded in the DEC Hudson Basin Watch Program, The Leaf Pack Network, and Westchester County Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program as part of a DEC grant to monitor the Croton Watershed.

Disturbed by the evidence of badly impacted water quality, Bob decided to do something about it! He focused on the small brook that runs in front of Mahopac High School. With the support of the School Board and the assistance of

Lauri Taylor, of the Soil and Water Department of Putnam County he applied for grants. Local officials, businesses and even the garden club pledged services. The DEC and DEP as well as Cooperative Extension assisted with data and expertise. With about \$60,000 in grant monies and services Bob and his Water Quality Class used their data to identify areas in the creek that needed remediation. This resulted in a plan that would improve existing sumps, create bio-filters, enforce no mow zones, develop buffer zones of native plants, remove silt from the pond, and increase the rocky riffle areas. When the work is complete the creek will serve as an outdoor science classroom. It will contain four different habitats, a pond, a butterfly meadow, a rocky stream section, and at the south end a marsh.

Mr. Connick's students became experts in all aspects of water quality monitoring, they problem solved to prepare a plan for remediation, they recorded their data according to DEC standards, they created power point presentations which they used to present their data and their design plan to the Board of Education, and to other students and educators at Teatown's Environmental Fair. They learned how dedication and persistence could make a difference thanks to one special teacher.


Great Swamp Art Exhibit and Celebration Artists' Reminder

Deliver Artwork to:
Thomas Memorial Center
Christ Church, Quaker Hill, Pawling
Thursday October 20, From 2pm to 6pm

- Work must be ready to hang
- No more than 6 pieces
- Call if pieces are very large
- Pick up work Sunday at 5pm

Edie Keasbey 845-878-6169 Gordon Douglas 845-855-1917
Nancy Clark 845-878-9248

Directions: North from Route 55 intersection to traffic light at Quaker Hill Road. Go East on Quaker Hill Road. Follow to end at Mizzentop Road. Right at Mizzentop to next road. Christ Church is on right. Thomas Center is in back.



Friends of the Great Swamp is an organization dedicated to *Preserving the Great Swamp* through educational programs, scientific projects and 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 Day _____ Night _____

E-Mail Address _____

WE NEED HELP

If you can lend a hand with any of the following, please check off the box and we will call you.

- Spring Celebration Publicity Mailings
 Education Committee Art Show Other