



Friends of the Great Swamp



FrOGS

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www.frogs-ny.org

A R T SHOW



and Celebration of The Great Swamp

Come to the Art Show ! Celebrate the SWAMP !

Join FrOGS on
Friday, October 25th 4-8 p.m.
Saturday, October 26th Noon-6p.m.
The Frances Ryan Thomas
Memorial Hall
Christ Church, Pawling, NY



Join FrOGS for a day of family fun and Celebrate the SWAMP. The art exhibit features local artists. There will be paintings, drawings, woodcarving, photography and stained glass on display. Many of the artist's creations were inspired by the SWAMP and share the artist's 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.

There will be live animals, refreshments, and many other exhibits. The Van-Go Mobile Museum will be there too!!

Local Artists Featured at the Great Swamp Exhibit

The medium is oils or pastels, wood, glass

Or a camera to take photographs...

The inspiration is the SWAMP... ..

The SWAMP awakens the creative spirit in all of us....



Photo of the SWAMP by Norman McGrath

Norman McGrath, Patterson Resident, Photographer of the SWAMP

Norman McGrath, a long-term resident of Patterson and noted photographer, has been an exhibitor for many years in the FrOGS Art Show. In addition to his photos Norman has prepared a slide show of the wonders of the SWAMP that will be shown on Saturday, October 26th.

Norman McGrath, an internationally acclaimed photographer of skyscrapers and other architectural subjects "discovered" the Great Swamp as a subject in the mid 1990's.

"I've lived here since 1975 but did not discover the Swamp as a subject for years" stated Norman as he explained how he began to photograph the Swamp.

"The more I got into it the more I realized the possibilities of the Swamp as a subject. The Swamp changes from day to day, hour to hour. I would go back to the same spot under a variety of weather conditions and at different times of the day and in different seasons."

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Celebrate the SWAMP

Local Artist continued..

Norman McGrath has photographed a particular turn of the river under all these conditions. He has captured the SWAMP in the early spring, later in the summer, and covered with winter snows. His favorite time is at first light as the sun begins to burn fog from the water.

The Swamp, as a subject, was a different perspective for Norman McGrath. Cityscapes and skyscrapers are usually photographed with a wide-angle lens. "The Swamp is an intimate subject," said Norman, referring to the Red Maple Swamp Forest he has photographed most often. "The line of focus for your eye is a single tree, a group of ferns, or a small area of river. There are not wide-open spaces or panoramas like there are in the scenery of the west. There is no vast sky; the trees close the scene in some areas so you can never see a patch of blue". As an artist, Norman McGrath wanted a feeling of the area and the vastness of the SWAMP. He achieved his objective by creating a triptych or a series of adjacent photos to create a feeling of panorama in the Swamp setting. Norman states, "for me, that format is a very seductive one".

"The conditions I like to photograph the best in the Swamp are the very early morning before the sun is fully up. When I get up in the morning at my house and see the valley below shrouded in mist then I get my equipment and rush down to the Swamp so I can shoot before the fog lifts. The views are somewhat moody, the fog, the mist, and the early morning light."

This is all almost impossible to describe if you have not seen the SWAMP in this light yourself. At the art show you will see some of Norman McGrath's photos and his slide show. It is the best way to catch a glimpse of this artists' view of the SWAMP.

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.

Duck Stamp Competitors to Exhibit

As a special treat this year several students from Carmel High School, who enter the New York State Duck Stamp Competition, will exhibit their artwork at the FrOGS Art Show.

Federal and state duck stamps are issued each year and purchased by hunters and other supporters of wetlands preservation. The funds from the duck stamps are used to purchase wetlands and other wildlife areas for the National Wildlife Refuge System, saving habitats for many different kinds of birds and animals.

Each year competitions are held throughout the country for the artwork to appear on the annual duck stamp. Competitions are held on both the federal and state levels.

Carmel High School students have entered the New York State competition for many years. These students have won prizes each year.

FrOGS is proud to have the opportunity to allow these talented students to exhibit their entries at our Art Show.



Reproduction of 2002 Federal Duck Stamp



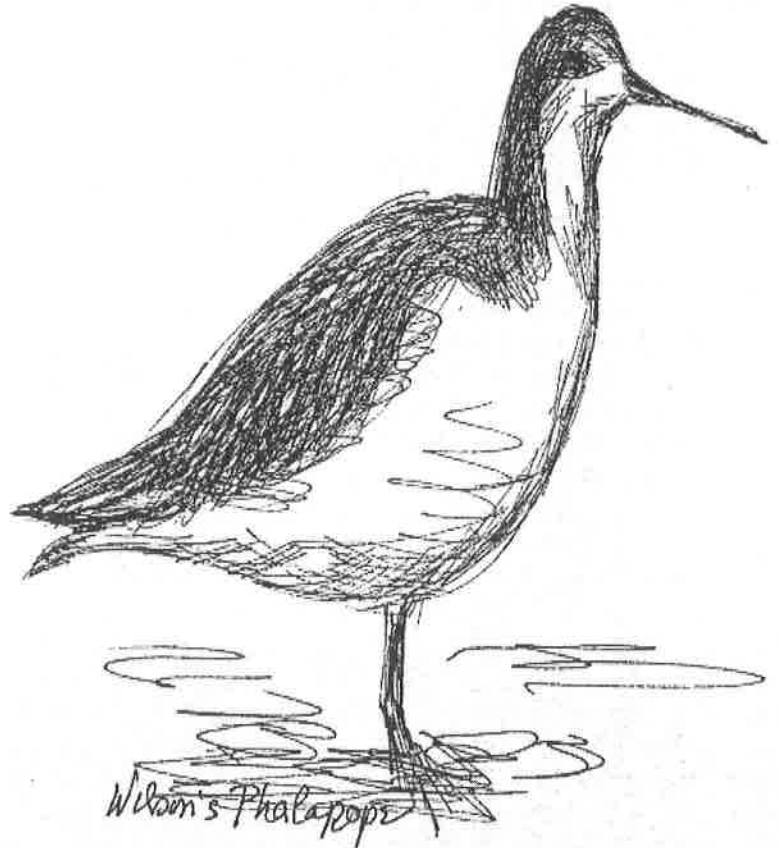
Another View of the SWAMP by Norman McGrath

Rare Visitors To The SWAMP

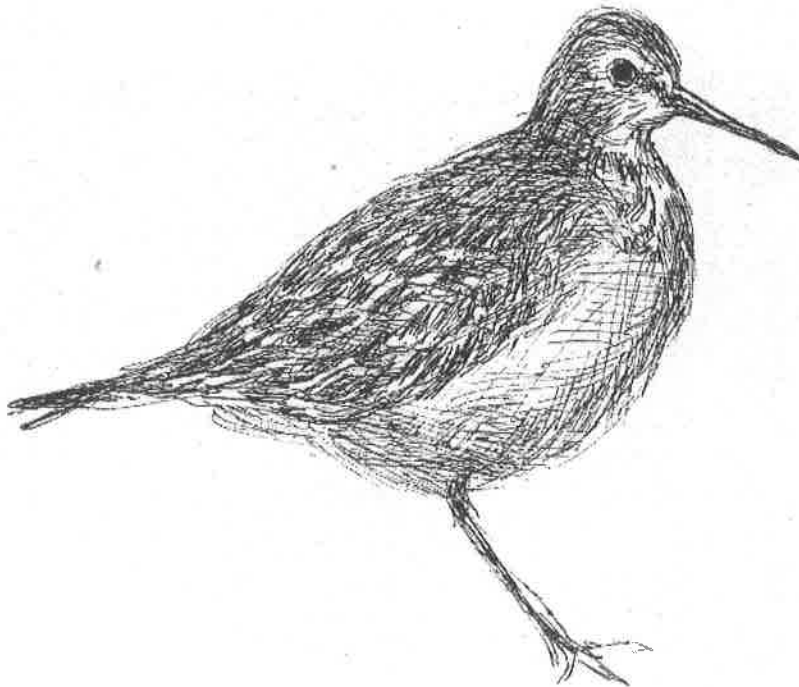
Shorebirds, some rarely seen in our area like the Bairds Sandpiper and Wilsons Phalarope, have ventured inland because of the unusual feeding opportunities that the East Branch Croton River and Reservoir provided this fall.

The recent drought has lowered water levels in the SWAMP and the East Branch Croton River to the lowest levels in decades and has created mud flats where the East Branch Croton River merges with the East Branch Croton Reservoir off Old Milltown Road in Southeast.

We were surprised to see not only occasional Yellow Legs stop here but also hundreds of other shorebirds throughout August. This included some very unusual to rare fall migrators, the Wilsons Phalarope and the Baird Sandpiper. Both of these birds are more common in the West or at the least in the Mississippi Flyway. Their appearance in the East is unusual even during fall migration. Their appearance at the East Branch Croton Reservoir was a treat that brought birders for miles just to catch a glimpse of them.



Wilson's Phalarope



Baird's Sandpiper

Shorebirds make unbelievable journeys. They are the greatest long distance migrators in the avian world. Many fly 10,000 miles or more as they leave their summer nesting areas in the Arctic and travel to the southern most regions of South America. They work to build up fat reserves during the late summer. This allows them to make their long flights but they do need to refuel at key stop over points on the Atlantic Flyway. These usually include stops at the Bay of Fundy and the Delaware Bay as well as the Connecticut coast. This fall the stop for many was the East Branch Croton Reservoir. What a treat to host these special visitors!

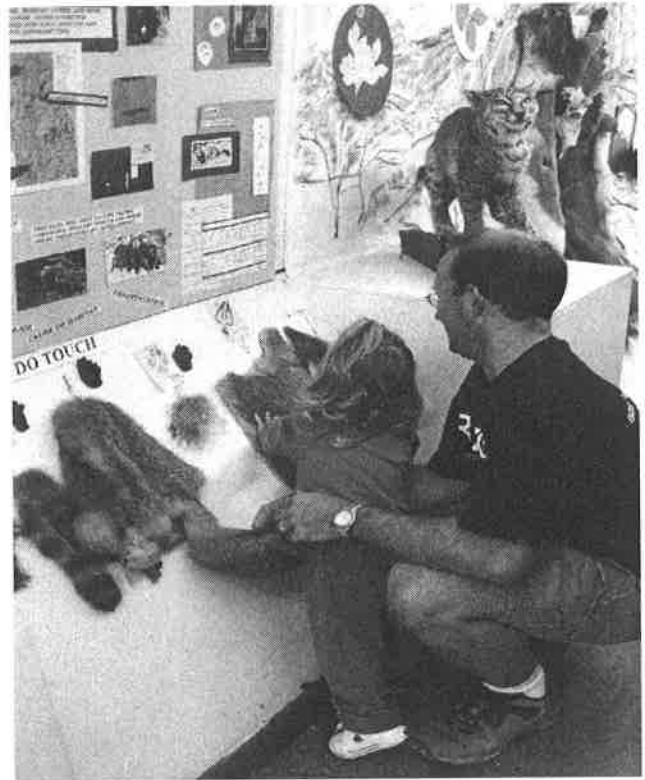
Van Go Mobile Museum Exhibit of the SWAMP Gets RAVES!!

The Carmel School District's Van Go Mobile Museum is hosting two FrOGS exhibits of The Great Swamp this fall.

The exhibits introduce the schools and the community to The Great Swamp.

Last week Van Go attended the Putnam Community Hospital Fair. Several hundred visitors toured the exhibit. One boy, about nine years old, ran out excitedly. "Mom, come see!" "It's where I paddled on the school trip." "It's where I paddled, it's great!!"

"It is important to get people excited about this great natural resource that is right in our backyard," said Judy Kelley-Moberg. The exhibit entitled "Welcome to Our Home" takes viewers on a brief hike through the many parts of the SWAMP and introduces them to the creatures that live there. The exhibit shows the marsh/flood plain, the shrub swamp, the red maple swamp, and the forest uplands. Animals like the river otter, eastern coyotes, little brown bats, wood ducks, red tailed hawks, and bog turtles are positioned in their environments or "Homes in the SWAMP". Many of the specialized plants that grow in the SWAMP are illustrated too.



One of the many things to explore at the Van Go Exhibit



A bobcat and a coyote are only a few of the animals to see at the Van Go Exhibit



Another wonderful exhibit to be seen at Van-Go

FrOGS Thanks the Contributors to This Newsletter:

A special **Thank you!** To Norman McGrath for his photos of the SWAMP.
 Jean Hannon Douglas for her wonderful illustrations.
 Karen O'Neill for her editing.

*** If you have a green dot next to your address label please send in your membership renewal if you want to continue to receive this newsletter***

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

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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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Celebration	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Mailings
<input type="checkbox"/> Art Show	<input type="checkbox"/> Other