

Friends of the Great Swamp



FrOGS

PO Box 373, Pawling NY 12564

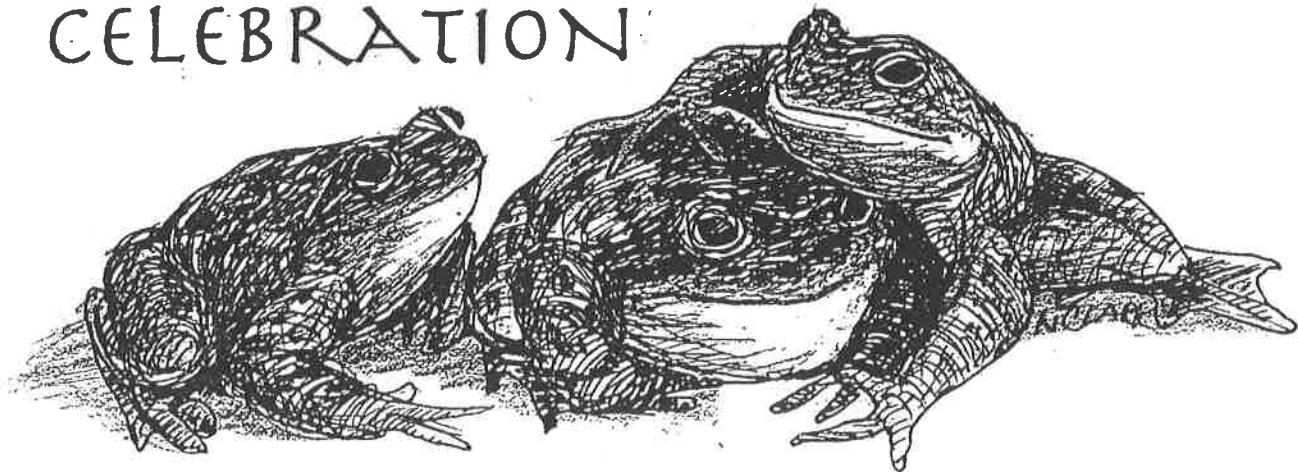
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THE GREAT SWAMP ART EXHIBIT AND CELEBRATION



FRIDAY OCT.15 SATURDAY OCT.16 SUNDAY OCT 17

**Join FrOGS for a day of family fun
And Celebrate the Great Swamp!**

Friday, October 15th from 3 PM to 7 PM

Saturday, October 16th from 11 AM to 6 PM

Sunday, October 17th from 1 PM to 4 PM

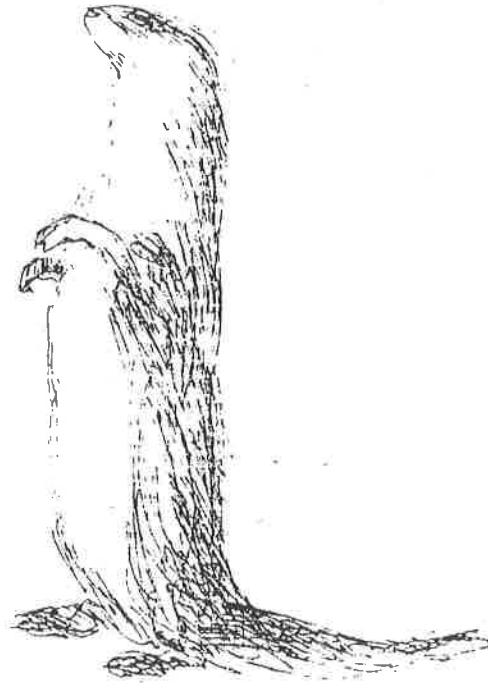
We have invited 92 local artists to exhibit! There will be paintings, watercolors, drawings, woodcarving, photography, stained glass and pottery. The moods of the Swamp wilderness and the variety of the wildlife there inspires all our artists. Twelve of our Artists joined FrOGS on a special canoe trip through the Swamp this summer and may create some new works from that experience.

Art Exhibit and Celebration

Children from seven of our local schools will exhibit their art as well. The creatures of the swamp as well as the ferns, reeds, and trees they see there fascinate these young artists. Many of them have canoed the Swamp with their schools.

We will also have several educational Programs on Saturday and Sunday. The Nature of Things with Debbie Mumford will be back both Days. Jim Eyring and his Falcons will join us on Sunday afternoon. Our Education Committee is working on several exhibits and we are expecting a surprise exhibitor or two on Saturday.

Sunday morning FrOGS will sponsor the Coffee hour and a special tour of the Exhibit for the parishioners of Christ Church.



Encouraging Conservation Through the Arts

Encouraging Conservation through the Arts is the purpose of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program. FrOGS is proud to have the students from Carmel High School and Middle School who entered their works in the New York State contest as part of Duck Stamp Competition exhibit their work at the FrOGS Celebration of the SWAMP and Art Exhibit.

Federal Duck Stamps have been issued since 1934. All waterfowl hunters over the age of 16 are required to carry one. The dollars from the sales are put into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. This Fund is used to purchase wetlands and wildlife habitat in duck breeding areas and along migratory routes and thus protect these species for future generations. Since the program began, over \$ 500 million dollars has gone toward the purchase of these key habitat areas.

Each year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sponsors a competition for the year's Duck Stamp. Top wildlife artists compete for the honor of having their painting chosen for the Duck Stamp.

In 1989/90 the Junior Duck Stamp Program was launched to encourage conservation and the arts for young artist. Students from kindergarten through high school are encouraged to submit their work through a series of statewide contests. The funds from the sales of the Junior Duck Stamps provide scholarships to the students and education programs for the participating schools.

Students from the Carmel Middle and High Schools have participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Competition for many years. FrOGS is proud to have these students exhibit their works at our annual art exhibit.

Every citizen can purchase a Duck Stamp. You do not have to be hunter. They are available at our post offices for \$ 15.00. The cost of the Junior Stamps is \$ 5.00. Buy a Duck Stamp and help promote the conservation of wildlife habitat – and own a beautiful work of Art.



Reproduction of 2002 Federal Duck Stamp

Ovenbirds

"tea-cher, tea-cher, TEA-CHER, TEA-CHER"---the song that greeted us as we unloaded the



mist nets from the van for our International Migratory Bird Day bird banding demonstration. We did not need to catch this bird to identify it as the plump brown warbler with the streaked breast, and white eye-ring, the Ovenbird.

Ovenbirds are the ground-feeding warblers of our Eastern woodlands. They are found singing in the Swamp early in the season, feasting on the insects they find as they turn over the leaf litter that covers the ground throughout the "drier" wooded swamp areas. "Drier" for the Swamp means areas that are one or two feet higher than the flooded riverine areas.

Ovenbirds require large contiguous and preferable mature forests to breed. They are "Area Sensitive"---requiring large, undisturbed areas of deciduous woodlands. We are glad to find them in the Swamp and adjacent upland woodlands as fragmentation of wooded areas in the Hudson Valley has caused a decline in their numbers.

This section of the Great Swamp is the second largest wooded swamp area in New York. Adjacent to the red maple swamp forest are several areas of undisturbed upland woodlands of slightly higher

elevation and this combined area of deciduous trees is perfect habitat for the Ovenbird. This warbler (it is often mistaken for the similar looking Wood Thrush, which is a tree dwelling species) is a ground feeder, eating insects, spiders, and slugs it finds under the brown leaf litter on the ground. It is a quiet bird that is more often heard than seen.

The Ovenbird gets its name from the dome-shaped -- Dutch Oven---like nest it builds on the ground. As in the illustration above, the nest looks like an "Oven". The eggs are laid inside the "oven" and are incubated there. The young birds stay in the nest several days after hatching while their parents feed them. If a predator stumbles upon the nest, the female is likely to hop out, squawk, and drag its wing on the ground as it hops away from the nest----to convince the intruder that she is mortally wounded. Once she draws the intruder far enough away from her nest, she flies into the air and away.

MIGRATING BIRDS --- SPRING and FALL

Spring

International Migratory Bird Day

The Spring and Fall Migrations songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors are critical to their life-cycle. Birds follow their sources of food north in the Spring to nest and raise young, then return to their wintering grounds in the Fall when colder weather cuts back on their food supplies.

FrOGS celebrates the return of our songbirds to the Swamp with our Celebration of International Migratory Bird Day on May 7th and 8th. Over 90 species of birds use the swamp as a refueling stop on their way further north and another 90 additional species return here to breed.

Over 150 people and several scout troops attended the demonstration of Hawks and Owls by the Hudson Valley Raptor Center and John Alkildsen's "Birds of the Great Swamp" at the Lakeside Park in Pawling.

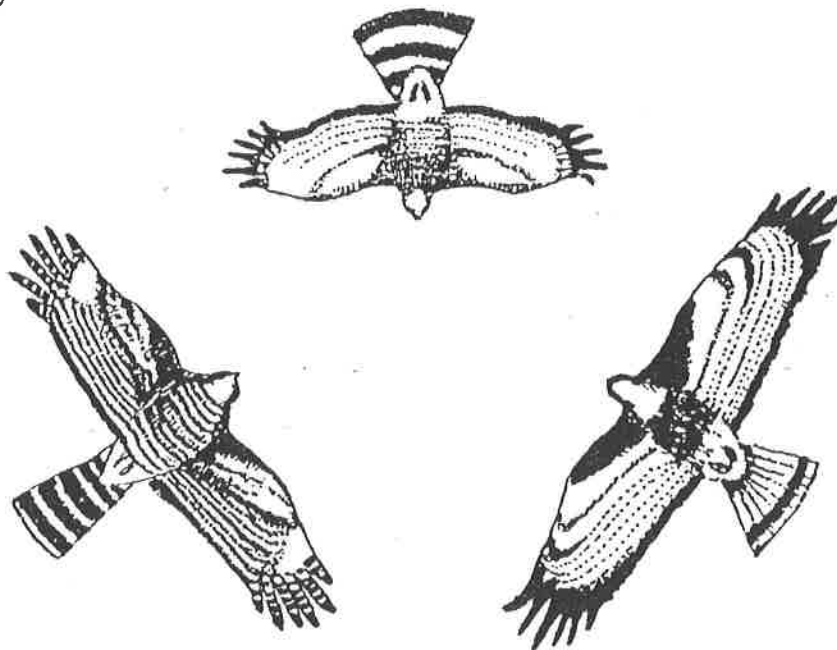
On Saturday, FrOGS sponsored hikes Throughout The Great Swamp watershed both in Putnam and Dutchess Counties.

At the Patterson Environmental Park, Dr James Utter set up a temporary banding station to demonstrate how birds are caught and banded and how records are kept throughout the country to learn more about the migration habits of our summer visiting birds, and our local breeding songbirds.

Judy Kelly-Moberg, Lauri Taylor and Shirley Soss aided participants in FrOGS "Give the Swamp A Report Card" water quality monitoring tests and In the "Go Tracking" special activity that focused In the mammals present in the Swamp. Examination of the creepy crawly creature of the East Branch Croton River at this point in the Swamp pronounced the Swamp healthy.

FrOGS Would Like to Thank...

Judy Moberg for her drawings
Jean Hannon for her drawings
Nancy Clark for her drawings



Hawk Migration Signals Fall

Scan the horizon on a clear September day. High in The skies above, you catch sight of a tiny black spec. First one, then another. As they circle closer, you can distinguish a pattern of wings, then the tail. It might be the stubby tail of a Broadwing or the patterned tail of a Red-Shouldered Hawk.

It's a magnificent site! Raptors are incredible masters of the air! They soar and circle. You are witnessing one of the great spectacles of Fall - the semi annual migration of Hawks, Eagles and other Raptors.

Weather is Important

Weather and geography determine when and where they will fly. The best time to look for Hawks during Fall Migration in the Northeast is after the passage of a cold front. Cold fronts are usually characterized by turbulent air and bands of showers. Hawks and other migrating birds are reluctant to battle the turbulent air. So large numbers of hawks and other raptors get "backed up" behind the front and resume their journey south again after the front passes.

Fall Migration - Hawks continued

Hawks take advantage of other favorable atmospheric conditions too. Watching them, they seem to glide in circles hardly ever moving their wings. They are capable of sustained flight but prefer to conserve their energy so they use bubbles of warm rising air, or thermals to carry them to heights in the air. Then they can soar and glide until they reach the next thermal. They do not have to use their energy flapping their wings thus conserve it over the long journey.

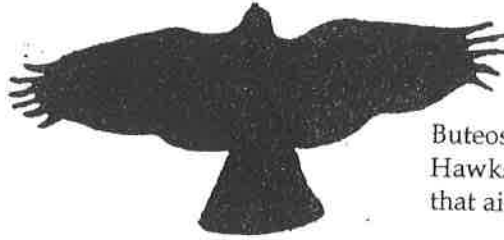
Why do they Move?

Hawks migrate south as their food sources diminish. With the onset of colder weather here. Hawks that feed on reptiles and amphibians, the Broadwings migrate south first, usually in September. Their food source is beginning to hibernate.

Others like the Red-Shouldered and Red-Tailed Hawks are rodent eaters and move later in the season, usually in October and November. Sharpshinned hawks take songbirds as their major prey, the Sharpies follow them. Eagles may linger as long as waters are open and there are fish available. They come through in November.

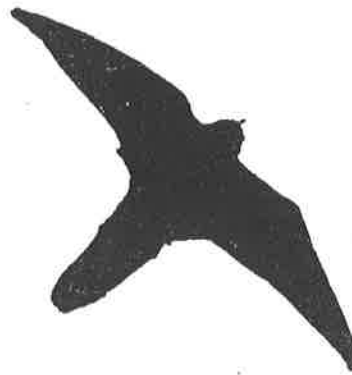
You can watch Hawks at the Greenwich Audubon Society Center on Riverside Road, Greenwich, CT daily. There are volunteers to help you spot and

Identifying Hawks in Flight---Shape is Key



Buteos are medium to large Hawks that have broad wings that aid in soaring. They have

Accipiters are quick and agile Hawks. They are the "birdcatchers" of the boreal forest and the backyard feeder. They catch their prey on the wing. Their wings are short and rounder adapted for bursts of speed and weaving through trees and brush. The Sharpshinned, the Coopers Hawk and the Northern Goshawk are accipiters.



The true falcons are streamlines birds with long pointed wings and tapered tails. They are highly aggressive. The Falcons include the Kestrel and the Merlin. The Falcons migrate south along the coast and are seldom seen inland.

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.

<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