

The Edie Keasbey Memorial Award

Friends of the Great Swamp (FrOGS), is offering an annual award to honor the memory of Edith "Edie" Keasbey (1930-2020), one of its founding members and someone who "made a difference". The catalyst for her work and the center of her life became protecting the Great Swamp and the life that depended on it.

The \$1,000 award is being offered annually to graduating high school seniors residing in New York's Great Swamp Watershed with future aspirations towards causes core to the FrOGS mission. The award will be granted to a senior from the Brewster, Carmel, Dover, or Pawling school district. The application and essay questions are key in evaluating the candidates and will lead to a final interview round. Applications must be received by April 1st, 2024 for consideration.

As a girl Edie loved visiting her grandmother Sterling's farm above the wetlands of the Great Swamp in Patterson. Years later, she and her husband Tom made it their home. In 1987 Patterson residents became aware of the illegal dumping of potentially toxic waste material in the wetlands surrounding the Great Swamp, and the threat to the town's water supply. She educated herself about state regulations, was elected to the Town's Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC), and encouraged politicians to be proactive rather than reactive. She helped to win the communities' "Dump Fight". Friends of the Great Swamp (FrOGS), was formed to continue to protect the wetlands as well as its unique wildlife. At 73, Edie earned her B.A. by writing, "The Education of a Community Activist"; based on her efforts to "wake up the community to the issues that shaped their lives." She concluded, "If I have learned anything... it is that in the end it's mostly politics, and you cannot separate politics and the environment, they require each other to reach agreement." Edie received the Great Blue Heron Award from Putnam County Land Trust in 2003 and the Women of Distinction Award for her advocacy from the 40th Senate District in 2017.

The successful applicant for this award will share some of Edie's qualities: the resolve to work hard to succeed in their field of interest, to educate themselves and others, to be an activist, and to value the environment as well as their community.



FRIENDS OF THE GREAT SWAMP

Founded in 1990, FrOGS is a non-profit volunteer organization. Our mission is to preserve and protect the health of the Great Swamp watershed through research, education and conservation.

Want to know more about how your neighbors support the local habitat of FrOGS?



A biography of Edie may be found here or via a keyword search "Edie" on the FrOGs page.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EDIE KEASBEY AWARD APPLICATION:

- Complete the application form and two essay questions.
- Submit the application packet to FrOGS email at **info@frogs-ny.org**
- Expect to receive an email response of receipt within a week of the submission.

Applicant:	Email:
Home street address:	Contact phone:
City, state, zip code:	Secondary phone/email:
Resident school district: <input type="checkbox"/> Brewster <input type="checkbox"/> Carmel <input type="checkbox"/> Dover <input type="checkbox"/> Pawling	School attending:
Current school GPA: GPA scale : <input type="checkbox"/> out of 4 <input type="checkbox"/> out of 5	Character reference 1 contact details:
Guidance or school contact that could be contacted to verify academic credentials:	Character reference 2 contact details:

Note: by completing this application, the applicant is giving permission for FrOGS representatives to contact the above persons on academic and character questions.

Future academic plans and career:

Extracurriculars that support this application in leadership, volunteering, and work history:

Is there anything else we should know that would support your application?

Submit essays of 250-500 words each that answer the questions below:

1. Who are you? What are your interests? What have you done and what are you passionate about?

2. What do you think you could do to make a difference in the Great Swamp or other ecosystems?