

Call for Artists!

The Great Swamp Celebration

Juried Art and Photography Show 2026

Christ Church on Quaker Hill
17 Church Road, Pawling, NY 12564

October 17, 11AM-5PM and October 18, Noon-4PM

~ Cash Prizes Will Be Awarded! ~

Artists are invited to submit up to four (4) digital images for each category: Painting-Drawing-Collage and Photography. Images should reflect the beauty and diversity of the Great Swamp and surrounding watershed. All works must be of subjects and locations found within the Great Swamp Watershed or our “additional listed areas for 2026” (included below) to be accepted. NOTE: Domestic and imported animals may appear incidentally within the landscape but not as the primary subject.

Photography will be judged separately from painting, drawing, and other mixed media. NOTE: We do not have space to accept three-dimensional artwork. For each submitted image, please provide a short statement (no more than 50 words) explaining why the subject inspired you, and the location. These statements will be displayed with accepted works. *The largest framed dimension of any work must not exceed 34”.*

Deadline for submissions is midnight Monday, September 28.

You will be notified by email regarding acceptance by Saturday, October 3rd.

Submission Procedure

Photography should be emailed to: frogs.photo.show@gmail.com

Paintings and drawings should be emailed to: frogs.art.show@gmail.com

Please send with the subject line “**Art Show 2026**” and be sure to include: your Name, Address, Email, Phone number and a short statement about each work (including Location), as well as Title, Medium, Dimensions and Price. Submit in .jpg format, sized 1MB or less.

Images should be identified by using the following file name protocol:

Artist Name-Title-Medium-Dimensions-Price.jpg

Example: JaneDoe-SwampScene-Photograph-18x20-150.jpg

Accepted works prepared for hanging must be delivered to Christ Church on Thursday, October 15th from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM. ***Works that are not properly framed and wired for hanging may not be accepted.*** Please ensure your name and the title of the work are labeled on the back.

There will be a \$10 hanging fee for each accepted work for the adult art show.



Friends of the Great Swamp, P.O. Box 373, Pawling, NY 12564 – www.frogs-ny.org – info@frogs-ny.org

Hanging fees must be received by 10/15/2026 and can be paid at drop off or via Square at <https://tinyurl.com/FrOGS-2026-Art-Show>

All accepted artwork will be exhibited for sale. FrOGS will retain a 30% commission on all works sold during the Show.



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Some recommended painting & photography spots in the Great Swamp

1. **Slocum-Mostachetti Preserve** (Oblong Land Conservancy) Great views of a small meadow with summer and fall wildflowers and beautiful red cedar trees and trail to wetlands. Directions from South: Take Rte. 22 north past Olivet Evangelical Center to the traffic light at Pleasant Ridge Road. Make left onto Pleasant Valley Road, go 0.8 mile (you will have crossed over the RR tracks). The dirt road to the Preserve is on the right, make the sharp turn and drive past old house and take the dirt road as it curves past the house and 300 yards to the rear. Stop at the gate and park on the dirt road. Walk beyond the gate into the Preserve. From the North, follow Rte. 22 to Pleasant Ridge Road, make a right onto Pleasant Ridge Road and follow the same directions to the Preserve.
2. **DEC Launch Site Parking Lot** Directions from South: Take Rte. 22 north and make a left at the Harlem Valley – Wingdale train station onto Wheeler Road. Cross RR tracks, DEC parking area is on the right. There is a small boat launch path for the Swamp River. Good marsh views from there.
3. **Pawling Nature Preserve**, with access to the Appalachian Trail. From South, take Rte. 22 north, past Trinity Pawling School to the right turn onto North Quaker Hill Road. Follow road to a left on Quaker Lake Road, then follow Quaker Lake Road past the lake to the parking lot for the trails. From North, travel south on Rte. 22 to a left on Hurds Corners Road, then follow the rest of directions. Yellow Trail goes up the hill to the Appalachian Trail intersection. Great views of the Great Swamp and valley below from the ridgeline. The Preserve can also be accessed via the Orange Trail at the junction of Furlong and Sprague Roads. NOTES: Quaker Lake itself is Private, and be aware that the Preserve is open to hunting October 1 to December 22.
4. **Appalachian Trail Crossing of Swamp River** on west side of Rte. 22. There is a small parking lot on the west side of Rte. 22 just south of Native Landscaping. Cross RR track on foot and follow the Boardwalk trail to the bridge crossing the Swamp River. Continue on the trail into the woods and up the hill if you want or turn around there. Many opportunities to photograph or paint: spring marsh with forget-me-nots, cattail marsh, fall wildflowers, arrow arum, and the Swamp River.
5. **River Road Crossing of Swamp River**, Pawling. Good view of Swamp River from the roadside. The roadside is wide here, with enough room to park and also to set up and easel on the side of the road. Great photography opportunities year round, but especially in Fall, with view toward the South (Zaengle Preserve – Oblong LC). From South, take Rte. 22 past Trinity Pawling School and ½ mile further is the left turn for River Road. Cross the RR track, and take River Road for ½ mile to where you can see the River. From North, River Road is a right turn ½ mile south of Native Landscaping.
6. **Lathrop Center at Lakeside Park**, Pawling. Turn onto Holiday Hills Lane off of Dodge Road into Lakeside Park. Green Mountain Lake, a stream and the meadows on a hill beyond are a short walk beyond the Lathrop Center.



7. **Patterson Environmental Park**, Patterson. Great Views of the East Branch Croton River meandering through the Great Swamp and some upland oaks and tulip trees too. Great spot for painting or photography! Directions from South: go north on Rte. 22 to Rte. 311. Make a left turn on Rte. 311, cross RR tracks and make immediate left turn onto Front Street. Continue down Front Street until the end (at Patterson Recreation Center) – then make a left and drive over the RR tracks (this is an uncontrolled crossing, STOP and look for approaching trains before crossing) onto the dirt road that leads down to the river where there is a parking lot. From the North, make a right turn from Rte. 22 onto Rte. 311, then follow the directions above. There is a boardwalk and trails into the woods bordering the Great Swamp. This is one of the best wetland area views of the Great Swamp.
8. **Sterling Farm Preserve** on Couch Road. There is a small parking lot at Tom's Path where there is a small brook. Cross to the right side of the road and walk south 100 yards to the trailhead into the Preserve, which has a small wetland with great opportunity to paint botanic detail of wetlands plants. Directions from South: Head north on Rte. 22 to a left on Rte. 164 and after 1.6 miles make a right turn onto Cornwall Hill Road. Continue ¼ mile past the parking pull-off for Laurel Ledges. Make a right turn onto Couch Road, parking lot is immediately on the left.
9. **Laurel Ledges/Turtle Pond**, off Cornwall Hill Road, Patterson (Putnam County Land Trust Preserve). One of the best places for photographers. Great patterns on the rocky ledges, ferns, lichen and views of Turtle Pond from the trail. Excellent new boardwalk enables easier access, but trail is uneven so recommend carrying painting materials in a backpack. Directions from South: north on Rte. 22 to left on Rte. 164, go 1.6 mile to right turn onto Cornwall Hill Road. The parking pull-off for the Laurel Ledges trail is on the right at the trailhead sign. From North, take Rte. 22 south to Rte. 164. Make a right turn onto Rte. 164 and follow the directions to Cornwall Hill Road and the trailhead.
10. **Maybrook Trailway**. The [Maybrook Trailway](#) offers access to exceptional opportunities for photographing and painting in The Great Swamp watershed. This paved, mostly level rail trail is easy to traverse by bike or on foot. Access sites with parking include: Rte. 292 at Old Rte. 55, Rte. 292 at Holmes Road, Rte. 311 at 0.4 miles east of Rte. 164, Rte. 164 at Bullet Hole Road (0.5 mile walk to Ice Pond), and Castle Park in Southeast (Pumphouse Rd).
11. **Rte. 164 at Muddy Brook** 0.1 mile further west than Cornwall Hill Road intersection.
12. **Green Chimneys Beach and Boardwalk**. Open weekends and Holidays only. Great views of East Branch Croton River both north and south from the beach or the bridge over the river. The boardwalk offers some traditional wetland views, cross the boardwalk into meadow views toward hills. Directions: Take Rte. 22 north to Doansburg Road, (County Road 65), go 2.0 miles and Green Chimneys school will be on the right, make a left turn into the parking lot. Walk to riverside.
13. **Clough Preserve**. Wonderful wetland views. At the end of the trail, you'll come to Ice Pond and the Maybrook Trailway. Take Rte. 22 north to Rte. 312 west and make a right at Farm to Market Road, just past the school complex. The small parking lot is 0.8 miles down Farm to Market Road on the left.
14. **Michael Ciaiola Conservation Area and Great Hollow Preserve**. Haviland Hollow Rd and CT Rte. 37. Ciaiola Conservation Area has wonderful woodlands and streams with waterfalls. Great



Hollow has trails to Quaker Brook (which becomes Haviland Hollow Brook). Take Rte. 22 north to Haviland Hollow Road (at Putnam Diner) and make a right turn. Just before Quaker Brook and Connecticut, make a left into the Ciaiola parking lot. For the Great Hollow Preserve, continue ¼ mile further and make a left onto CT Rte. 37, 100 yards from there make another left into the Great Hollow Preserve parking lot.

Additional wetland and river locations connected to our Great Swamp ecosystem which can be included for the 2026 show.

1. **Route 55 Swamp/Wetlands** in Pawling by Appalachian Trail/Nuclear Lake trailhead.
2. **Wimisink Preserve** (Rte. 39 Sherman, CT) - fantastic cattail marsh!
3. **Nellie Hill (Great Thicket Preserve, USFW)** Rte. 22, Dover Plains (there are a pond and vernal pools there)
4. **Ten Mile River**, riverside from Amenia to Bulls Bridge including Wassaic State Multiple Use Area and Webatuck Creek and Wassaic Creek
5. **Cat Rocks Trail** – Appalachian Trail, Pawling
6. **Brewster: East Branch Croton Reservoir and River** from Milltown Road and East Branch Croton River south to Railroad Avenue, plus the trail along the west side of the Diverting Reservoir, Veterans Park, and Sodom Road bridge over the river.
7. Other locations will be made available for specific Plein Air events.

