



Northern Neck Audubon News

The Northern Neck of Virginia Chapter of the National Audubon Society

P.O. Box 991, Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482

www.northernneckaudubon.org

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September/October 2015



Bird Walk at Belle Isle State Park
September 14, 2015
Photo by Jeff Wright

Inside This Issue

President's Message	2
Past Events	3
New Wildlife Area for NNAS	3
Upcoming Events	4
Press Release from US Fish & Wildlife ...	4-5

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 26 - Bird Walk

8:30 a.m. at Beaverdam Park. (See www.northernneckaudubon.org/) for directions to the park.)

Led by Frank Schaff 804-463-0084

October 5 - 7:00 PM

Meeting - Grace Church, Kilmarnock

Speaker: Teta Kain on "Feeding the Birds"

October 12 - Bird Walk

Place and Time TBD

Led by Lance Johnsen

Watch our web site

(www.northernneckaudubon.org/) and the newspapers for place and time as plans develop.

President's Message

The Northern Neck Chapter of the National Audubon Society is a great organization! This was clearly evident by the fabulous turnout at our first meeting and program - the annual picnic and evening bird walk at Belle Isle State Park. The food was fabulous, the weather perfect, the 25 birders enthusiastic. Unfortunately the 30+ birds we were hoping to see didn't get the notice to meet us there. Apparently the little dip in the temperature that we all enjoyed over the weekend was the signal for many species to begin moving out. However, we did see some magnificent specimens thanks to several keen eyes and the handy scopes of Lance Johnsen and Frank Schaff.

I also chaired my first official board meeting and I shared with the board two goals for my presidency - developing a committee system and focusing on education. As a group we have four venues to help us meet these goals:

- the listserv,
- the newsletter,
- the monthly programs, and
- the bird walks.

The first two venues are an opportunity for members to educate each other.

I encourage all members to use the listserv to report when and where you have seen or heard birds. If something you have seen puzzles or concerns you, post your questions and someone will help you find the answer. Also post photos. Paul Servis, your photos are amazing; keep up the good work!

Bonnie Wilson, our newsletter editor, is doing a fabulous job. But she and I want to hear from members who have gone on fabulous birding trips, are working on chapter projects, know best kept secret birding sites, or have had unusual encounters with birds. A short paragraph will do or

a few lines accompanying a photo. Just send your contributions to Bonnie at bbwilson@kaballero.com.

The next two venues, bird walks and programs are the public face of our chapter and providing them is our opportunity to give back to the Northern Neck community. Members and non members are always welcome. Frank Schaff has planned walks to provide residents all over the Northern Neck with the opportunity to attend. There are always experienced and knowledgeable birders like Linda Schaff and Lance and Maryalyce Johnsen to help spot and identify what we are hearing and seeing.

The eight programs presented during the year are coordinated by the hospitality, audio visual and program chairmen. Programs are what first drew me into Audubon almost ten years ago and as program chairman the past two years, I have been encouraged to be more creative with our format possibly including more interactive events, and occasionally changing meeting times, and location. Members ideas for interesting topics, activities and speakers are always welcome.

I hope all members will consider ways they can help with any of these four committees.

Email me, Nancy Garvey, nangarvey@hotmail.com with your ideas and offers to help.



Past Events

NNAS Annual Picnic 2015

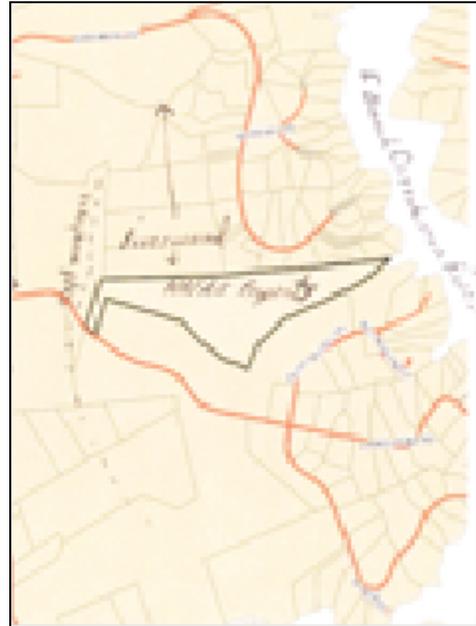
The 2015-2016 NNAS program year was begun with a lovely picnic held at Belle Isle State Park on September 14. The picnic was followed by a bird walk along the water, led by Frank Schaff. The weather was fine and the potluck offerings delicious. If you haven't attended one of our annual picnics, please plan to do so next year. A great time is had by all.



Sunset Bird Walk at Belle Isle State Park

September 14, 2015

Photo by Jeff Wright



New Wildlife Area for NNAS

by Diane Wrick

The Northern Neck of Virginia Audubon Chapter is excited about a new wildlife area that we received in Lancaster County off of Devils Bottom Road. The parcel of 38.41 acres is located inside the Laurel Point entrance on the east side of Laurel Point Road beginning just past the easement for the telephone poles.

Irv Owens, III inherited the land at Laurel Point from his father, who had begun the development in the 1960s. Irv and his family lived in the development for years until recently when he and his wife decided to move to Richmond, VA for retirement. When Mr. Owens began to think about retirement, he decided to divide some of the undeveloped part of Laurel Point between the Northern Neck of VA Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy. In this way he could protect the land and the animals as well as the natural beauty of the property.

The new Audubon property is covered in woods and is a haven for many animals, plants, and birds. We are looking forward to exploring this area and enjoying the natural beauty as well as the large number of birds that call this home.

Upcoming Events

October 5, 2015 NNAS Program
Feeding the Birds
Speaker: Teta Kain

If you are trying to attract birds to your backyard, you won't want to miss Teta Kain's presentation "Feeding the Birds." Teta will discuss different types of feed to use and what birds are attracted to each. She'll show you different types of feeders and which ones work the best. She'll mention special tricks that not only help to attract a greater variety of birds year round but also how to help keep the birds safe from predators as they feed. Mixed in with all of this are some of Teta's funny and unusual moments she's experienced trying to photograph birds in their natural and unnatural habitats.

Teta has been a wildlife photographer for over 40 years, and has traveled extensively throughout the United States, and especially in Virginia, photographing everything from bugs to birds. Since she and her husband arrived in Virginia in 1978, Teta has been involved with many nature and environmental organizations. Over a 27-year period she served on the board of the Virginia Society of Ornithology as president, secretary, chairman of the state bird records committee, and editor of the state's bird journal, *The Raven*. She received the Society's Myriam P. Moore award for outstanding service in 2008.

September 26 Bird Walk at Beaverdam Park

On Saturday, September 26, the Northern Neck Audubon Society (NNAS) will conduct a bird walk at 8:30 a.m. at Beaverdam Park near Gloucester Court House. This walk will be led by Frank Schaff.

This beautiful park has a 63.5 acre lake and many trails for bird watching. Among the many possible sightings are early migrating birds and waterfowl, osprey, herons, swallows, belted kingfishers, warblers, woodpeckers, mute swans, hawks and bald eagles.

Visit www.northernneckaudubon.org for directions and other information on upcoming events.



October Speaker: Teta Kain

Press Release from Fish & Wildlife

More Than \$27 Million in Funding Approved to Protect Waterfowl and Other Bird Species

WASHINGTON – The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission) today approved more than \$27 million in funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners to purchase, lease or otherwise conserve nearly 200,000 acres of wetland and associated upland habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds and other birds across the United States.

"From the Gulf Coast to the Prairie Potholes, we need to conserve habitat wherever birds migrate, breed or winter," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who chairs the Commission. "These projects are important to our ongoing work to protect, restore and enhance habitat to support our nation's rich diversity of birds."

Of the total funds approved by the Commission, \$21.4 million will be provided through North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants to conserve more than 133,000 acres of wetlands and adjoining areas in 13 states. NAWCA is the only federal grant program dedicated to the conservation of wetland habitats for migratory birds. The Commission also approved expenditure of nearly \$6.5 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to conserve 3,274 acres for five national wildlife refuges through fee title land acquisitions and easement acquisitions.

To date, NAWCA funds have advanced conservation of more than 30 million acres of wetland habitats and their wildlife in all 50 states, engaging more than 5,400 partners in more than

(continued page 6)

Press Release (*continued*)

2,500 projects. NAWCA grants are funded through federal appropriations as well as fines, penalties and forfeitures collected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; from federal fuel excise taxes on small gasoline engines, as directed by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act; and from interest accrued on Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act funds.

Examples of projects include:

Upper Snake River, Idaho: \$1 million to acquire 3,295 acres and enhance 90 acres of wetland and wetland-associated uplands in the Upper Snake River Plain of eastern Idaho.

Bayou Monnaie Marsh, Louisiana: \$1 million to restore 7,312 acres of coastal marsh on private lands in southeastern Louisiana.

Chenier Plain Cade Ranch 2, Texas: \$1 million to permanently acquire 1,092 acres of wetlands and associated tidal flats, subtidal ponds and beach front on Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County, Texas.

Grants made through this program require matching investments. The projects approved today will leverage an additional \$45.3 million in nonfederal matching funds. A complete list of projects funded this year is available at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php>.

The \$6.5 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund was raised partially through the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps (Duck Stamps), which help provide habitat for wildlife and increased opportunities for refuge visitors who hunt, bird-watch, photograph and view wildlife.

"Hunters, birdwatchers and refuge supporters have once again demonstrated the important role they play in conserving our nation's wildlife," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "The National Wildlife Refuge System preserves some of our nation's most diverse and valuable wildlife habitat – lands that also provide millions of Americans the chance to get outside and experience nature, form vital buffers against flooding and storm damage, and generate millions of dollars for local economies. The money generated through the sale of Duck Stamps is essential in helping maintain and grow this unique network."

For every dollar spent on federal Duck Stamps, 98 cents

goes toward the acquisition or lease of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp Program and Migratory Bird Conservation Fund have provided more than \$800 million to acquire more than 5.7 million acres for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Commission-approved refuge projects are:

- Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Maryland: Price approval to acquire 758 acres for \$2.235 million.
- Brazoria NWR, Texas: Boundary addition and price approval to acquire a 1,090-acre tract for \$1,962,000.
- Klamath Marsh NWR, Oregon: Boundary addition and price approval to acquire 400 acres for \$400,000.
- Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area, California: Price approval to acquire approximately 205 easement acres for \$580,000.
- Turnbull NWR, Washington: Price approval to acquire an 821-acre tract for \$1,298,000.

An additional 45 small grants worth \$3 million were awarded earlier by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. The Commission created its Small Grants Program in 1996 to encourage new grantees and partners to carry out smaller-scale wetlands conservation projects that may otherwise not be able to compete in the U.S. Standard Grants Program. In June 2013, the Commission approved an annual \$5 million spending limit for Small Grants, to be awarded at the discretion of the Council.

The Commission is chaired by the Secretary of the Interior. Its members include U.S. Senators Thad Cochran of Mississippi and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico; Representatives Robert J. Wittman of Virginia and Mike Thompson of California; U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; and Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

For help with injured animals:

Christine Pritchard (*Rabbits & Fawns*)
Gloucester 804-694-6522

Nancy Johnston (*Small mammals, but not rabbits or birds*)
Kilmarnock 804-435-3040

Diana O'Connor (*Birds of prey, song birds, mammals & reptiles*)
Warsaw 804-313-2240

Application for Membership in NNAS - Chapter Code X50, 7XCH

- Local Chapter Only Membership - \$15.00 annually, renewable in June; includes local newsletter and directory.
- National & Local Membership - \$20.00 introductory (\$35.00 after), is above, plus glossy National Audubon Magazine.
 Make checks payable to "National Audubon Society".

Name _____ Phone _____ - _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Northern Neck Audubon Society Resources

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