



The Overlook

Winter 2008

Spring Into Nature 50th Anniversary April 26, 2008



Spring Into Nature 2008 has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 26 from 9 am - 4 pm** (note the new times). This year we will be focusing on the 50th anniversary of the refuge. We are looking into some new exhibits and activities to offer in order to keep the event fresh for our returning visitors although some popular activities may be kept. Iroquois Observations will be back with a variety of activities as well. Another change this year is that the auditorium will be set aside for guest speakers or scheduled programs. All exhibitors and vendors will be in either the two shop areas or the big garage (Building 17).

In recognition of our special anniversary we are working with a graphic artist to develop a logo and graphics for the 50th which will be used on such things as paper bags for kids to carry their “goodies” in, souvenir lapel pins, flyers, posters, fact sheets, and the refuge website.

The Friends of Iroquois NWR will sponsor the event and work in partnership with the Buffalo Audubon Society and the Iroquois Job Corps Center to make sure all of our visitors have a great time.

Please Help Us

The events’ success relies on the generous contributions of time from our volunteers. Would you like to help with set up, be on a committee, staff the Flyway Nature Store, work with children, or greet our visitors? These are just a few possibilities. With the CCP going on, we really need as much help as we can get. In fact, Dorothy is looking for a volunteer who can help coordinate other volunteers. This will include phone calls and scheduling people for the various activities. We can’t tell you how much we would appreciate *your* help!

Please call 585-948-5445 for more information, different work possibilities, or any questions!

Refuge Staff



Thomas P. Roster	Refuge Manager, Iroquois and Erie National Wildlife Refuges
Kelly Chase	Supervisory Wildlife Refuge Specialist
Paul Hess	Wildlife Biologist
Dorothy Gerhart	Visitor Services Manager
Ira McCoy	Automotive Mechanic
Jeff Graves	Engineering Equipment Operator



FINWR Board of Directors



Officers

- * Ed Fiorino (Board Chair)
- * Carl Zenger (President)
- * Ann Fournier (Vice Pres)
- * Chuck Fournier (Treasurer)
- * Helen Freitag (Membership secretary)

Board Members

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| * Bill Bixler | * Nancy Chenoweth | * Skip Draper |
| * Krys Elam | * Matthew Lamb | * Bob Hazen |
| * Rosalind Lind | * Sandra Madjeski | * Mike Noonan |
| * Gerry Rising | * Gail Seamans | * Peter Warn |
| * Matt Worth | | |

At the Friends' annual meeting this year, we tried our first-ever silent auction. With help from Friends members and supporters, we raised \$450! Thank you to all our donors and buyers. Special thanks to Wild Birds Unlimited for the fine binoculars, and to the young folks at the Iroquois Job Corps for the wonderful children's Adirondack chair.

Presidents Message-Winter 2008

The Annual meeting of the Friends of Iroquois NWR Inc. was held Saturday, November 17 at 7:00 PM. Thirty members and guests were present for a lively meeting that had interesting presentations and interactive discussions. Our thanks to those who made the presentations and provided current information.

Congratulations to the new and returning board members. Returning board members are: Bill Bixler, Nancy Chenoweth, Matthew Lamb and Gail Seamans. New board members are Peter Gold and Gerry Rising. The officers elected at this meeting are: Vice President-Ann Fournier, Treasurer-Chuck Fournier and Secretary-Helen Freitag. Ann Fournier and Bob Schmidt were elected to the nominating committee. We wish the very best to these people and hope they enjoy their service to the organization.

Thanks to Rosalind Lind for organizing our first silent auction. We netted \$452 from the event. Thanks to all the persons who donated items for the auction and for those who bid on them whether they were successful or not.

The biggest event for this year, "Spring into Nature" is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th. This year will be a special time as we will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Committees are already working to make this a special day. We will need lots of help both before the event and on the 26th. Please call the Refuge (585-948-5445 ext. 200) and become involved.

In 2007 the Friends benefited from 140 memberships donating \$7306. To date we have about 70 memberships for 2008. Thanks to those who have already joined and to those that haven't please get your application in as soon as possible. Get a friend or other interested person to join or support the Refuge.

Watch the web-site for details on the Friends sponsored Adopt-A-Highway pickup on Route 63. This will be done on April 3rd with a rain date of April 10th. This is another worthwhile activity to participate in. Call the above number to be on the team.

Be sure to check our web-site (<http://www.friendsofiroquoisnwr.org>) for other information and updates for what is happening at the Refuge.

Carl Zenger, President
Friends of Iroquois NWR, Inc.

Iroquois Observations Preliminary Schedule; subject to change.

- "Scope Watch" is held at the Cayuga Overlook. Come see the Bald Eagles!
- "Focus On" & "Hands On" programs meet at Refuge Headquarters, 1101 Casey Rd.
- "Birding Field Trips" start at Cayuga Overlook, Rte. 77.

Check the web for Updates: <http://www.buffaloaudubon.com/iroquoisobservations.htm>

Saturday, March 8 & Sat., March 15

1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch.
(*Weather Permitting.*)

Saturday, March 22

9 am – Noon: Birding Field Trip
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch

Saturday, March 29

9 am – Noon: Birding Field Trip
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch
1 pm – 2 pm: Focus On

Saturday, April 5

9 am – Noon: Birding Field Trip
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch
1 pm – 2:30 pm: Hands On
8 pm – 10 pm: Owl Prowl. (Meet at Cayuga Overlook.)

Saturday, April 12

9 am – Noon: Birding Field Trip
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch
1 pm – 2pm: Focus On "Owls of the Niagara Frontier."
1 pm - ? pm: Hike the Feeder Trail
7:30 – 9 pm: Woodcock Walk. (Meet at Swallow Hollow.)

Saturday, April 19

10 am – Noon: Birding Field Trip.
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch
1 pm – 2:30 pm: Hands On "Basic Birding with Jim Pawlicki"
3 pm – 4 pm: Nature Walk at Swallow Hollow

Saturday, April 26

Spring Into Nature Celebration

9 am – 4 pm: Family Activities at Refuge Headquarters, Casey Rd.
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch

Saturday, May 3

8 am – 9:30 am: Warbler Walk. (Meet at Kanyoo Trail)
10 am – Noon: Birding Field Trip.
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch
1 pm – 2:30 pm: Hands On
6 pm – 8 pm: Secretive Birds of the Marsh. (Meet at Kanyoo)
8:30 pm – 10:30 pm Owl Prowl. (Meet at Cayuga Overlook.)

Sunday, May 4

9 am – 1 pm: Canoe Trip, meet at Knowlesville Rd bridge. Life jackets required, bring your own canoe.
Questions? Call Rick Allen at (716) 445-9685.

Saturday, May 10

Migratory Bird Day
8 am – 10 am: Warbler Walk. (Meet at Swallow Hollow.)
10 am – 11 am: Bird Banding Demo at Kanyoo Trail Check Station.
11 am – 12:30 pm: Nature Walk. (Meet at Kanyoo Trail Check Station.)
1 pm – 2:30 pm: Hands On
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch

Saturday, May 17

Happy 50th Birthday INWR!

9 am – Noon: Birding Field Trip
? – walk ?
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch
1 pm – 2:30 pm: Focus On "Dragonflies of New York"
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm: Focus On "50 years on the Refuge".

Saturday, June 21

Special Evening Program
8 pm – 11 pm: Bats, Bugs, and Stars, meet at Kanyoo Trail

Please Note: Programs may be subject to change.

Sunday, October 5

9 am – 1 pm: Canoe Trip, meet at Knowlesville Rd bridge. Life jackets required, bring your own canoe.
Questions? Call Rick Allen at (716) 445-9685.

Saturday, October 18

9 am – Noon: Birding Field Trip
1 pm – 4 pm: Scope Watch
7 pm – 9 pm: Owl Prowl. (Meet at Cayuga Overlook.)

Saturday, November 1

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm: Owl Prowl. (Meet at Cayuga Overlook.)



HELP WANTED

Below are volunteer opportunities for the spring and summer months. If you have a few hours we would love to see you. Don't see something you're interested in? Have no fear. We can still use your help. Please call Dorothy Gerhart at 585/948-5445 extension 200 for other ideas or if you have a skill not listed below.

Project	Description	Time Frame/ Time of Year/ Frequency	Hours
Visitor Contact Station Staff	Assist staff in greeting visitors and answering questions. Weekends have the greatest need. Also staff the Flyway Nature Store.	March - June	4-8 hrs/day
Spring Into Nature	Opportunities include: staffing visitor contact station / Flyway Nature Store, parking, interpretive programs, set-up, clean-up, and more.	April 26, 2008 8 am - 4 pm	4-8 hrs
School programs	We offer both indoor and outdoor programs. All training needed will be provided by refuge staff.	March - May (or as needed)	1-2 hrs/ program
Visitor Use Collector	Observe and record the number of visitors/cars at overlooks, trails and fishing areas. Orientation, training, and vehicle provided.	March - July	2 hrs/day
Blue Bird Trail	Monitor and maintain blue bird boxes, changing nesting material as needed. Orientation, training, and vehicle provided.	March - July	1-2 days/week For nesting season
Mailings for CCP	We will be needing volunteers to help copy and mail information to the public as well as news releases regarding the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP).	January -December	2-3 hours per day Dates TBA
Trail Maintenance	Want to work outside?? Boy do we have a job for you. This entails raking, spreading, fixing, cutting, and other functions to keep our trails user friendly. This project is usually done in pairs.	April - August	When we have volunteers



Winter Fun – Iroquois Refuge Style

Looking for a good way to burn a few of those extra Holiday calories? You may not know it, but Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge is a good place to spend some quality time outdoors, even after the snow flies and the temperatures dip below freezing. If it's cross country skiing fun you're looking for, look no farther than the refuge headquarters. The 7 ½ mile Mohawk Ski Trail starts and ends at the headquarters and winds its way through the fields and forests surrounding Mohawk Pool. If you're like me and you tend to fall down on skis, strap on a pair of snowshoes and take a walk on one of the refuge nature trails. If you prefer to have only boots on your feet, the nature trails are also a good place for a walk in the snow.

Even though many of our feathered friends have flown south for the winter, there are still plenty of birds to see on the refuge prior to spring migration. Many songbirds call the refuge home year round and the intrepid birder that braves the cold weather will often be rewarded by the sighting of a flock of chickadees, a few cardinals and perhaps a blue jay or two. Those who look a little harder may be able to spot less common birds such as a northern shrike, red-breasted nuthatch or even a short-eared owl.

No matter what your recreational pleasure. If it involves fun in the outdoors, the refuge is sure to have something for you. For more information stop into the refuge headquarters or check out our website at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois/> and enjoy your visit.

By Paul Hess
Wildlife Biologist



Volunteer-Update-Post-Holiday-Awards-Banquet-Gathering (VUPHABG...in true government style...)

This year, we are going to combine the 2007 holiday open house and the 2008 volunteer update to create a “one year only” VUPHABG...or, we could just admit that this is a time to truly thank our volunteers, present awards, and have some great food. The details are:

WHO: All volunteers and Friends
WHAT: VUPHABG...
WHEN: Friday, January 25, 2008 10am - 2pm
WHERE: Iroquois NWR Auditorium
WHY: Because we (Iroquois NWR staff) adore all of our volunteers!



A more detailed agenda will be provided on the day of the event, however, the day will begin with refuge staff updating our volunteers on last years events, and upcoming projects, needs, management directions, and opportunities. In the afternoon, the refuge will provide lunch for our volunteers while awards for 2007 accomplishments are presented. Please let us know if you will be able to attend our exciting VUPHABG!

Please RSVP to Dorothy @ 585.948.5445 by January 16, 2008

THE OVERLOOK NEWSLETTER
Friends of Iroquois
National Wildlife Refuge
1101 Casey Road
Basom, NY 14013



FRIEND'S NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000



Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Membership

Please renew/establish a one-year membership for:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership Levels:

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Raccoon	\$50
Red Fox	\$75
Bluebird	\$100
Heron	\$200
Bald Eagle	\$500
Double Eagle	\$1,000

Be a Friend!

Contributions are tax deductible

Send check, payable to Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, to: 1101 Casey Road, Basom, NY 14013

