



The Overlook

www.friendsofiroquoisnwr.org

Fall 2010

FINWR Board of Directors

Officers

- * Peter Warn (Board Chair)
- * Peter Gold (President)
- * Ann Fournier (Vice Pres)
- * Chuck Fournier (Treasurer)
- * JoAnne Jackson (Secretary)

Board Members

- * Bill Bixler
- * Nancy Chenoweth
- * Skip Draper
- * Krys Elam
- * Sandra Madjeski
- * Sandra Mendel
- * Tom Lunt
- * Michael Noonan
- * Tom Poczewinski
- * Gail Seamans
- * Bonnie Woodward
- * Carl Zenger

INWR Staff

- * Thomas Roster
Refuge Manager
- * Richard Pawlikowski
Admin Support Assistant
- * Dawn Washington
Wildlife Refuge Specialist
- * Paul Hess
Wildlife Biologist
- * Dorothy Gerhart
Visitor Services Manager
- * Ira McCoy
Automotive Mechanic

The Vision for the Future of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

After over two years of planning, writing, and editing, the Iroquois NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) was put out for public review in early October. The plan, which is mandated by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 which required all refuges to develop and implement CCPs, will help guide the management of the Refuge over the next 15 years! The development of the plan was put together through a team consisting of both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation employees. We also carefully considered public input from scoping meetings.

The team developed the following Vision for the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge as well as goals we are trying to achieve.

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, known locally as part of the "Alabama Swamps" will be the ecological "puzzle piece" for western New York by creating and maintaining unsurpassed habitats, including wetlands, grasslands, shrublands, and forest for migratory birds and other wildlife. By encouraging compatible wildlife dependent recreation and working with partners, a deep understanding and appreciation for the Refuge's ecological integrity will be fostered in its visitors, regardless of generational, economic or social boundaries. Through these efforts future generations will cherish Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge's interconnectivity to the much larger National Wildlife Refuge System.

GOAL 1: Provide high quality freshwater wetland migration stopover and breeding habitat for waterfowl, marsh birds, shorebirds, and bald eagles in Refuge impoundments through water level control.

GOAL 2: Maintain the environmental health and integrity of Oak Orchard Creek and associated forested wetlands as a natural free-flowing habitat with a diverse assemblage of native plants and animals.

GOAL 3: Provide a diverse mix of grassland, shrubland and forested upland habitats arranged to reduce fragmentation and edge effects, and enhance habitat quality for priority species of conservation concern.

GOAL 4: Refuge visitors will understand and appreciate fish and wildlife conservation through high quality recreation, education and interpretive programs.

GOAL 5: Hunters and anglers will enjoy and support programs designed to provide high quality hunting and fishing experiences.

GOAL 6: Enhance partnerships with local communities and various organizations to garner support and promote Refuge programs and resources.

Our draft plan presents three fully developed, distinct planning alternatives to manage the refuge for the next 15 years. The alternatives were based on the purposes for which the refuge was established, its visions and goals, and issues and concerns identified by the public, state agencies, and the Service during the planning process.

Alternative A Current Management:

This alternative is the “No Action” alternative, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Alternative A defines our current management activities, and serves as the baseline against which to compare the other alternatives. No major changes would be made to current management practices. Under current management, Refuge impoundments will not change in respect to existing conditions. There will be no change in the amount of open water and emergent marsh available to wildlife. Early successional habitat including grasslands and shrublands will decrease in comparison to existing conditions.

Refuge forests are the only habitat under this alternative that will increase in acreage. The increase is a result of the natural succession of shrubland and grassland habitat to forest. We would maintain opportunities for visitors to engage in wildlife observation, photography, and environmental education and interpretation, as well as existing hunting and fishing opportunities on the Refuge. We would maintain existing infrastructure and buildings, and maintain current staffing levels.

Alternative C Improved Biological Integrity:

Alternative C, prominently features additional management that aims to restore (or mimic) natural ecosystem processes or function to achieve Refuge purposes. Under Alternative C, Refuge habitat conditions would change as a result of management decisions that target a more natural state (less management) and emphasize restoration to historical habitats. Refuge impoundments will no longer be actively managed and some would be removed. This will result in a decrease of approximately 329 acres of open water and emergent marsh habitat. Grassland acres will be reduced by 50% as only the two largest grassland units will be managed. Management of shrublands will be discontinued and the only shrub habitats that will remain are small native shrub swamps. Forest cover will increase (1,548 additional acres) under this alternative in response to the reversion, succession and conversion of conifer plantations, grasslands, shrublands, emergent marsh and open water to forest. We propose to restrict public access to designated areas of the Refuge year-round, allowing wildlife observation, hiking and walking on established Refuge nature trails.

Alternative B Service-preferred Alternative:

This alternative is the one we propose as the best way to manage this refuge over the next 15 years to achieve the refuge purposes, vision, and goals and the goals of other state and regional conservation plans. We also believe it most effectively addresses the key issues raised during the planning process. Refuge habitat conditions will change in response to management decisions that focus on decreasing habitat fragmentation and restoring native habitats. Management of Refuge impoundments will not change and there will be no expected changes in the amount of open water and emergent marsh available to wildlife. Early successional habitat including grasslands and shrublands will increase slightly and forest acres will increase more than any other habitat.

The Refuge proposes to restrict public access to designated areas of the Refuge year-round. The Refuge would allow wildlife observation, hiking, and walking on established nature trails. Access to other parts of the Refuge would be allowed under authorized programs like hunting, and environmental education. Closing the Refuge to unrestricted wandering would reduce disturbance on Refuge when waterfowl and other migrating birds are resting and feeding. The Refuge is also proposing to increase some existing wildlife-dependent recreational activities including hunting and wildlife observations.

We propose to co-locate the Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office currently located in Amherst, New York with a new visitor contact station and administration building at Iroquois NWR. The building will include a sales outlet for Friends of Iroquois NWR, exhibit hall, multi-purpose room, conference room and offices to house staff from Refuges, Fisheries, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

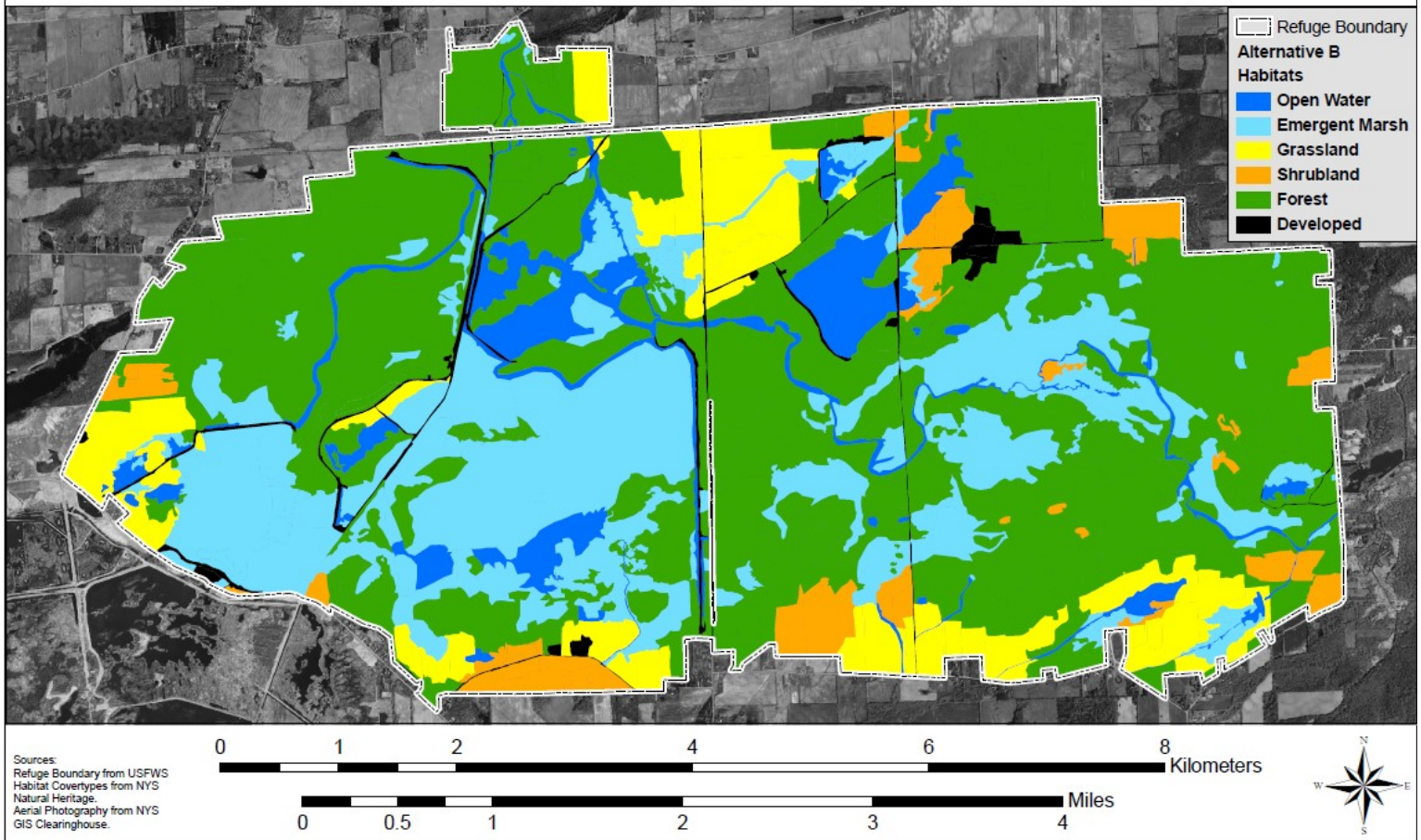
Refuge habitat conditions will change in response to management decisions that focus on decreasing habitat fragmentation and restoring native habitats. Here is a table of what we expect to happen under our proposed action.

Expected Habitat Acres Alternative B and Difference from Alt. A			
Habitat	Alternative A	Alternative B	Difference (Alt B - Alt A)
Open Water	823	823	0.00
Emergent Marsh	2,581	2,581	0.00
Grassland	1,048	1,073	25
Shrubland	526	539	13
Forest	5,402	5,570	168
Conifer Plantation	200	0.00	-200
Developed	248	242	-6
Total	10,828	10828	



Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge - Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Alternative B: Expected Habitats



Here are some additional strategies taken from Alternative B Service's Preferred Alternative that are identified in the draft plan to help meet refuge objectives and goals for the next 15 years. The draft CCP is loaded with a bunch more that will keep us busy developing and implementing them for years to come.

- Increase refuge staff by 4.5 people. Positions would include: Law Enforcement Officer, Maintenance Worker, Visitor Services Specialist, Biological Technician and part-time Biological Technician
- Continue to develop a comprehensive Geographic Information System database for the Refuge and the surrounding landscape to map and analyze habitat types and conditions, rare species populations, other ecological features, land use issues, and other relevant information for long-term planning and monitoring of resources.
- Continue to monitor and control non-native invasive species using a combination of mechanical, biological, and chemical techniques to restore native plant communities and healthy ecosystems.
- Complete Mohawk/Oneida Marsh Restoration project with construction of Oneida dike.
- Continue to manage the 41-acre Cayuga sub-impoundment and the 10-acre Schoolhouse sub-impoundment for fall migrating shorebirds using water level controls to create mudflats with shallow water areas less than three inches deep.
- Within 5 years, remove the northeast dike of Seneca Pool to restore natural hydrology to the greatest extent possible.
- Work with partners to improve upstream land use practices to enhance water quality within Oak Orchard Creek as it enters the Refuge.
- Remove hedgerows within grassland areas to increase the size of grassland patches.
- Evaluate and determine the feasibility of using Refuge grasslands for Karner blue butterfly reintroduction.
- The Refuge will implement a permit system where a general permit will be available for hunting upland game, other migratory birds, and big game hunting. An application fee will be charged for all controlled hunts that involve a lottery system which includes the spring turkey hunt and waterfowl hunting.
- Conduct two to four outdoor-related workshops such as Orienteering and Map Reading, Women in the

Outdoors, and New Hunters to Iroquois NWR.

- Develop a program that provides environmental education for the NY State School for the Blind.
- Open trail behind Refuge headquarters and create an overlook platform.
- Develop an accessible fishing pier at Ringneck Marsh or in Oak Orchard Creek along Sour Springs Road.
- Reach out to local communities and schools to build awareness, understanding, and support for Refuge biological and land protection programs and activities and demonstrate the role of Iroquois Refuge in the Refuge System.
- Increase support for activities of Friends of Iroquois NWR to promote Refuge programs and act as a local grassroots organization through interpretation and education programs.
- Enhance Refuge volunteer program to assist with the completion of Refuge projects.
- Enhance partnership with the Iroquois Job Corps Center by engaging in at least one cooperative project per year with the center.
- Continue to partner with other non-profit organizations like Buffalo Audubon Society, Western New York and Finger Lakes Waterfowl Association, Lake Plains Waterfowl Association, Canisius College, and University of Buffalo.

The public comment period ends on November 8, after that date, the planning team will get together to go over the recommendations, ideas and concerns that were sent in on the draft plan. We will then revise the draft plan as needed, then move forward to making it final and then on to implementing the strategies to make it happen at the refuge. If you want to see the draft plan in its entirety, contact the refuge for a CD or an electronic version of the plan.



Connect with Us

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service has joined the realm of social media to help reach new audiences and tell the story of how the Service is conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats.

Check out the links below:

<http://www.twitter.com/USFWSNortheast>
<http://www.flicker.com/photos/usfwsnortheast>
<http://www.facebook.com/usfws>
<http://www.youtube.com/usfws>
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/newsroom/>

The refuge has been posting “tweets” for about a year now and there is a link on the Northeast Region’s Facebook page to a great article about the TAKA (Take a Kid Along) program. (Click on the Northeast region button to access the link.) We will be looking into other ways to use this new media to showcase the refuge to the world.



Winter Gathering

(AKA Staff/Volunteer/Partner Holiday Brunch)

When: Saturday, December 11, 2010

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Office, 1101 Casey Road



Come to our potluck winter social to catch up with friends as we bid farewell to 2010 and welcome 2011.

Please, bring your family and a dish to pass (if you are so inclined).

Please, call by December 1, 2010 to let us know how many will be coming so that we can plan accordingly.

Support the Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. for 2011

Membership Levels:

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Raccoon	\$50
Otter	\$75
Bluebird	\$100
Heron	\$200
Bald Eagle	\$500
Double Eagle	\$1000

Please send contribution to:
1101 Casey Road
Basom, NY 14013

We can use your volunteer time also!!

Contributions are tax deductible

Thank You to our 2010 Contributors !!!

A Special Thank You to the Morian family and friends of for their generous donations!

Double Eagle: Mike and Bonnie Woodward

Bald Eagle: Tom and Audrey Lunt, Chuck and Ann Fournier, John Walley.

Heron: Renee Bush and Bruce McCombe, Peter Gold and Athalie Joy, Bob and Margie Hazen, Paul and Sheila Hess, Sandra and Tom Madejeski, Dorothy Rapp, Peter J. Verroca.

Bluebird: Anne D. Astmann, Nancy and Steve Chenoweth, J.Fay and Ruth Cleveland, Mike and Krys Elam, Ed Fiorino, Pat and Harold Gross, Margaret Hoff, Peter and JoAnne Jackson, Morgan L. Jones Jr., Gordon and Peggy Lamb, Kalista Lehrer, Rosalind and Charles Lind, Sandra Mendel, Tom and Celeste Morien, Michael Noonon, Erik O'Neal, Gail Seamans, Betty Smith, Richard Thoma, Wild Birds Unlimited, Pete and Manya Warn, Theodore Weir, Alison and Michael Woodward, Leah and Cameron Woodward, Riece and Lakin Woodward, Carl and Phyllis Zenger, Finger Lakes WNY Waterfowl Assoc.

Otter: Carol Reise, Orleans County Federation of Sportsmen's Club, Stephen Wittkowsky.

Raccoon: Laura Berry, Margo Bowerman, Amy Choboy, Ed and Judy Derry, Don and Jean Felton, Peter and Therese Finlay, Ellen Gendreau, David Grotke, Margaret Hollingsworth, Mary Hughes, Ray and Karin Johnson, Charles and Carol Klinger, Allen and Doralee Lackey, Bob and Wendy Lamoy, Carol and Richard Manganaro, Judy Murray, Richard Pawlikowski, Anthony and Mary Anne Pietrzykowski, John and JoAnn Schlegel, Bob&Kay Schmidt, Don Swanson, Linsey Walters.

Family: Donna Aiken, Doug and Christine Belongia, Charles Bigalow and Paula Losito, Daniel and Dawn Borchert, Jerry Cataldo, David and Jeanine Chatt, John Cheney, Henry and Kathie Cook, Mary Culp, Marion Dann, Allen Ensminger, Doug and Helen Freitag, Wayne and Susan Gall, Glen Gelinas, Varney Greene, Meaghan and Scott Green, Sven Hammer, Don Hawkins, Mike and Cheryl Helman, Tuneesha and Jason Jepsen, Heidi Kennedy, Robert Kiehl, Ed and Jan Kramer, JoAnn Lang, Lisa Martorana, Jim and Ellie McConnell, Jack and Barbara Meeks, Arthur and Donna Mruczek, Lincoln Nutting, Chuck and Kristen Rosenburg, Jim and Pat Sanders, Dennis and Janet Seekins, Ruth and Stephen Shewan, Charlie and Sue Slack, Ed Slomba, David and Grace Strong, Dawn and Shannon Washington, Roy and Virginia Webber, Matt Worth and Family, Susan and Thomas Wren, Henry and Deborah Wright .

Individual: Maxine Barber, Janet Beglinger, Kathy Bilbrough, Russell and Carol Brumby, Anne Dyer, Skip Draper, Robert, Ensminger, Linda Granza, Owen Gray, Marsha Heckel, Elizabeth Hunt, Deborah Keller, Michael Levy, Alice Mckale, Scott Meier, Suzanne Mullane, Dean Owens, Kathleen Palmer, Gerry Rising, Thomas Roster, Debbie Secrist, Holly Sweeney, Louise Tomczak, Michelle Tow, Patricia Viscuso, Carol Wells, Joseph Wolak, Thomas Wright.

Announcing the 2010 Annual Meeting

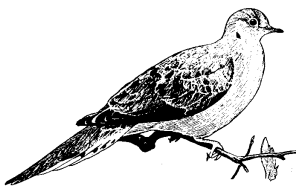
10:00 AM November 13, 2010

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters
1101 Casey Road, Basom, New York 14013

Join us for refreshments, presentations, a brief business meeting. Non-members and guests are also welcome!

There will be a *Silent Auction*!! If you have donations for the auction, please drop them off at 1101 Casey Road by November 11th or e-mail Rosalind Lind at rclind100@gmail.com and then bring the donations November 13th.

See you at INWR!



The Friends of Iroquois gratefully acknowledges a gift from Gloria Gannon in loving memory of Larry Gannon who passed away in June and was a friend and neighbor of the Refuge. The bequest will help us support the mission of Iroquois NWR.

Teamwork Gets the Job Done



Thanks to Ducks Unlimited, there is an important improvement to the Cayuga Pool of the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The water control structure has been replaced. It was leaking and getting more ineffective with each passing year. The water control structure automatically regulates water levels and overflows. A grant from Ducks Unlimited to Friends of Iroquois covered the cost of replacing the structure. The result is better habitat restoration and management. Friends of Iroquois helped to complete the project quickly and inexpensively. The contractor worked with Refuge staff to complete the job quickly and well. Thanks to all who worked on the project that brought a needed improvement to the Refuge (Tom Roster, Dawn Washington, Doug Gorby, Pete Warn, and Carl Zenger.)

Tom Roster, Refuge Manager, Peter Gold, Friends of Iroquois, and Doug Gorby, Ducks Unlimited, inspect the new water control structure for the Cayuga Pool. Photo by Pete Warn.

37th Annual Young Waterfowler’s Program

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), in partnership with the Lake Plains Waterfowl Association (LPWA), hosted its 37th Annual Young Waterfowler’s Training Program on Saturday, October 16. The program included a full day of waterfowl hunting information and orientation, designed to improve the skills of young waterfowlers before the youth-only hunt day scheduled for Sunday, October 24, 2010. The goal has always been to provide the knowledge kids need so that they can have a safe and quality hunting experience. The program is open to junior hunters between 12-17 years of age but is limited to 25 participants with first time participants having preference. This year 27 young hunters pre-registered for the program. Some were new to the sport of waterfowl hunting; others had participated in the program over the past 2-5 years.

The orientation day started with a New York State sanctioned Waterfowl Identification Certification class in the morning. Six first time young waterfowl hunters learned the basics of identifying waterfowl, and laws pertaining to hunting. In the afternoon they were joined by an additional 6 kids, who had previously taken the class, for an orientation. Subjects covered decoys and calls, ballistics, clothing and equipment, hunter ethics and safety, an overview of the refuge waterfowl program as well as a retriever demo and trap shoot. During the break between the two sessions, the Lake Plains Waterfowl Association (LPWA) and the Finger Lakes and Western New York Waterfowl Association provided a lunch for the participants. The LPWA provided all of the instructors and teaching material, dogs for the retriever demonstration, equipment for the trap shoot and even guides for the hunt day if a participant needs one.

On Sunday, October 24, 22 junior hunters participated in the hunt which included the 12 who had been at the orientation and another 10 who had been through the orientation at least twice before. A total of 10 birds were harvested during the hunt.





Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Opportunities List

(Updated 10/22/10)

Outdoor /Biological

Wood Duck Box Maintenance - Visit each wood duck box to clean it out, replace nesting material and gather data regarding usage. Arduous work in cold weather. May require walking through water or on ice. Will work with veteran volunteer.

When:	Fall - Winter - Spring
Event/Program	Biology
Contact:	Dawn Washington, 585-948-5445 ext 203

Maintenance

Garden Bed Head - weed, deadhead and in general maintain the butterfly garden and plantings around the office. No special skills needed

When:	Fall
Event/Program	Visitor Services, maintenance
Contact:	Dorothy Gerhart, 585-948-5445 ext. 200

Building Maintenance - change light bulbs as needed, shovel snow, plumbing and electrical work (if qualified)

When:	Ongoing
Event/Program	Visitor Services, Maintenance
Contact:	Dorothy Gerhart, 585-948-5445 ext. 200

Janitorial Duties - sweep and mop floors, vacuum, clean rest rooms, dust, wash windows

When:	Ongoing
Event/Program	Visitor Services, Maintenance
Contact:	Dorothy Gerhart, 585-948-5445 ext. 200

Office Volunteers

Clerical Assistance - typing, filing, photocopying, and/or compiling volunteer hours from monthly reports. Knowledge of MS Word helpful.

When:	Ongoing
Event/Program	Administration, Volunteer Program
Contact:	Dawn Washington, 585-948-5445 ext. 203

Graphic Artist - create artwork utilizing graphics software to be used for refuge publications

When:	Ongoing
Event/Program	Biological, Visitor Use
Contact:	Dawn Washington, 585-948-5445 ext. 203



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



FRIEND'S NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000

Upcoming of Events

November 6	8:30 am - 1 pm	Field Trip to Batavia Sewage Treatment Plant
	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Owl Prowl, Pre-registration required
November 7	Daylight Savings - set clocks back 1 hour.	
November 8	Deadline for Public Comment Period for CCP	
November 11	Veterans Day Holiday - Refuge Office Closed	
November 18	Waterfowl Hunting Ends on the Refuge	
November 19	Early Deer Bowhunting Season Ends	
November 20	Regular Deer Hunting Season Begins	
November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday - Refuge Office Closed	
December 12	Regular Deer Hunting Season Ends	
December 13	Late Deer Bowhunting and Muzzleloading Seasons Begin	
December 24	Christmas Holiday - Refuge Office Closed	
December 31	New Years Eve Holiday - Refuge Closed	

Consider Becoming a FINWR Sponsor

More info at <http://www.friendsofiroquoisnwr.org/sponsors.html>