

# The Rookery

Volume 21, Number 1



## The Friends of Eastern Neck, Inc.

Volume 21, Number 1

Spring 2017



...to us!

The Friends of Eastern Neck is (officially) 20 years old this year. We'll take a look back at some of our history in the Summer issue.

In the meantime -

**Celebrate!**

### BUTTERFLY GARDEN MAKEOVER TO CONTINUE The Garden Team reveals plans for the Summer

By Cheryl Cadwell

Spring means new beginnings, and the Butterfly Garden team will be working to bring the garden back to its former glory. Last year the main task in the garden was renovation: eliminating weeds, re-forming beds and creating healthy conditions for the plants. The next step is to replant the new beds and install labels for all the plants.

Two special hardscape elements are almost complete. The main paths have been covered in stone, making them drier and more adapted for handicapped visitors. And, at last, the gazebo will no longer languish in the parking lot but will soon be moved to the back of the garden and placed on a platform. This will allow visitors to have a lovely view of the Bay as well as a wide vista of the fields when they are filled with wild flowers and lots of butterflies.

One of the most exciting garden activities is going to be the creation of a DVD that will chronicle the Butterfly garden throughout the garden year. It will be used as a promotional display at the Visitor Center and for events. It can also be used for talks at libraries, schools, groups, events and other environmental locations. The DVD will be created with photos taken once or twice a week during the garden year. Everyone is invited to come to the garden, take photos and send them to Cheryl Cadwell at [lcadwell@providence.edu](mailto:lcadwell@providence.edu). If anyone has expertise in putting together a DVD of this type and would be willing to help, please contact me. Along with this educational material will be new handouts and display boards at the garden.

It would be great to have more members join our team and be part of what will be a very interesting year. If you're interested, contact me at the above email address or Cindy at [Cindy\\_Beamiller@fws.gov](mailto:Cindy_Beamiller@fws.gov).

A small, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Cheryl Cadwell.

**President's Message****Spring 2017**

Friends:

If you have walked the Duck Inn Trail recently, you may have noticed an open slatted wooden box on the left as you enter the gate. In it you may find wonderfully light, sturdy walking sticks. These are for your use on any trail. I say "may find" because they may not be at home in their box. They may be walking with someone. Or, they may have been left on another trail. These walking sticks are active participants in the recreational opportunity of walking offered at Eastern Neck.

Don and Elaine Knight have been visiting Eastern Neck for many years. They, along with their dog, enjoy walking the trails. Don crafted these six lovely sticks for visitors to enjoy. When you pick one up you will notice how light it feels. They are made from Princess Polonia wood, a native of China.

The idea is that you can use and enjoy the stick while walking Duck Inn, or any other place on the Island. When you are finished with the stick, return it to the box, return it to the visitor center or leave it to commune with an ancestor on another trail. Anyone coming by can use it; just be sure to return it to the box or to the visitor center. To honor this wonderful idea, the Friends board will install a plaque that invites hikers to "Walk With Me."

I personally have found it enjoyable to see the walking sticks showing up in many different locations. It makes me smile to think of the use of these sticks by so many people and the generosity with which they were given.



The other day when I visited Duck Inn Trail I had to laugh because in the box was a tall, sturdy stick which had not been carved. It had its bark on and had been donated by an unknown person. After all, there is plenty of room for all walking sticks.

So, now that you have someone to walk with there are no excuses. Smile and take that stick for a walk. The pleasure will be all yours. Many thanks to Elaine and Dick Knight for their thoughtful contribution to life at Eastern Neck.

**OUR MISSION**

The mission of the Friends of Eastern Neck, Inc. is to provide support to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge through educational outreach programs and volunteer service on the refuge, including the operation of the refuge bookstore.

***The Rookery***

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## REFUGE UPDATE

**Maintenance** takes up most of Cindy's time these days, and she was grateful to a Fire Crew from Blackwater NWR for coming up to Eastern Neck and clearing out some of the dangerous trees on the Refuge. Fire Crews have extensive training on removing dangerous trees. Dead trees pose a hazard with dead limbs, wood that behaves differently than green wood and the possibility of hollow centers. Maintenance is a big job and Blackwater's help was very welcome. But YOU can help too:

In order to help with maintenance needs, it would be great if a Trail Team could be established by Friends volunteers. The Team would meet one morning a month, for two to four hours. This would be enough time to handle most of the cleanup jobs. Volunteers would do some light pruning, whack a few weeds, clear trash and monitor the condition of the trails.

Anyone interested should contact Cindy at [Cindy\\_Beamiller@fws.gov](mailto:Cindy_Beamiller@fws.gov), call 410-639-7056 x228 or stop by the office.

The Trail Team will meet at the lodge at 9 am on Fridays on April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1 and October 6. April 7 will be a special Lodge Day. The area surrounding the lodge needs weeding, trimming and clean up. Tools and water will be provided. Please bring sunblock, bug repellent and a hat. If you forget any of these, we have extras.

Every Trail Team Friday we will have a variety of tasks depending on what you want to do. How long you want to stay also is up to you. We will start at 9 am and you can work as long as you like. One of the most attractive features of this work is what you will experience and see. While working on trails I have observed a plump raccoon wobbling down a trail, eagles watching from trees above, the sweet sounds of feeding song birds, a small 'V' of swans flying and chattering overhead and much more. My husband was lucky enough to come upon a moose while doing trail work in northern New Hampshire. Lucky not only to see him, but also lucky the moose didn't come after him! Join us!



**REMINDER:**  
**It's that time again!**

Two Youth Turkey Hunts are scheduled this year; they will be held on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**The Refuge will be closed until noon on both days.**

## CHESAPEAKE MARSHLANDS COMPLEX WELCOMES A NEW DEPUTY PROJECT LEADER

Eastern Neck would like to welcome Annji Bagozzi, who is the new Deputy Project Leader for Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, of which Eastern Neck is a part. Annji spent the past five years working for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Nevada as a refuge manager at Ash Meadows NWR and an assistant manager at Pahrangat NWR. She started her career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a biological technician at Florida Panther NWR, working primarily on invasive species management and fire. Additionally, she has worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Volusia County Mosquito Control, NOAA and Marineland of Florida.

Annji has a Master's Degree in Ecology and Environmental Biology from the University of Glasgow and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Eckerd College. She is originally from Philadelphia and is very happy to be so close to home on the Eastern Shore. Welcome!



## Winter Waterfowl Walks Withstand Very Variable Weather

By the time you read this, the second season of the wildly successful Winter Waterfowl Walks will be complete. Participants in January and February experienced the extremes of weather conditions for which we may be famous – Arctic-worthy to somewhat spring-like. But that didn't stop our intrepid leaders from still making the experience a memorable one.

In January, temperatures were in the 20s with gusting winds blowing snow in from the northeast. Still, thirteen hardy enthusiasts saw, among other sights, the new sandbar behind the breakwater installed last Fall at Cedar Point on the southernmost tip of the Refuge. They observed a raft of scaup that numbered in the thousands in the mouth of Hail Creek and also saw eagles, a northern harrier, canvasbacks and, of course, tundra swans.



*Brrrrr – January's hardy bunch looks over the sandbar to see what waterfowl may be tucked in the cove at Cedar Point.*



Just the opposite: February's 20 walkers enjoyed a mild day, led by Friends members/Kent County Bird Club leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin. They, too, went to the new sandbar. After each walk, Refuge manager Cindy Beemiller answered questions about the Refuge and supplied cookies and hot chocolate to end the morning. ☺

*What a difference! Same place, a month later, but the February group had much more hospitable weather to look for overwintering waterfowl.*

## TUBBY COVE PROJECT UPDATE



As we announced in the Winter issue of *The Rookery*, our campaign to repair the boardwalk at Tubby Cove was extremely successful (we raised almost \$14,000), and it had already been repaired and reopened to the public. It's been well-used by many Refuge visitors since then.

However, the project didn't have the boardwalk repair as its only objective. In addition, the Friends also contracted to rebuild the viewing platform at the end of the Tubby Cove trail with that money. We had hoped the platform would be completed by the end of February. However, the contractor was committed to another unusually large project before we signed on, and that has taken him longer than expected. Therefore he hasn't been able to begin work on the platform. We'll keep you updated on this work, since you were a large part of the success of the campaign. Thank you again for your generous response to our plea for help!



### SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL!

We know that Eastern Neck NWR comprises about 2285 acres, but it's not nearly the smallest refuge in the 560+ refuge system. That honor goes to Mille Lacs Refuge in Minnesota at a stunning .6 acres! But we do have a connection to the next smallest one - 3.79 acres: Susquehanna Refuge (at the mouth of the Susquehanna River at the top of the Bay) which, like us, is part of the Chesapeake Bay Marshlands Complex.

## FRIENDS' DOINGS

All this talk about the garden and butterflies made me think of one of the most important components of this ongoing project - the flowers. The garden team is planning to prepare a handout of the flowers they have planted for the butterflies, but what about the other Refuge flowers - the wildflowers? Searching the bookstore for flower-related material, I found just a few references for anyone interested in identifying our native flower inhabitants. They may be enough, however. Two are meant to be first guides to wildflowers: The *Peterson First Guide* and the *Golden Guide* (both priced at \$6.95), and the other, *Wildflowers of the Eastern Chesapeake* (\$7.95), is one member of our very popular foldout series.

There are also four postcards (still only 50¢) that make up a series called *Flowers of Eastern Neck*, several of which were taken as part of the photo contest way back in 2009. They're quite colorful. Look for them in their own display rack!



## A FAREWELL AND A WELCOME ON THE FRIENDS BOARD

It was with much regret that your Directors approved the resignation of Bob Parks from the Board. He said he just felt like it was time to move on, since he has been a Board member since 2002! We will clearly miss his wise counsel, especially when it comes to non-profit issues. He promises to watch what we do, however, and he can be seen almost every day walking on some part of the Refuge grounds. All the best to you, Bob!

To fill the opening created by Bob's resignation, the Board voted to appoint Cheryl Cadwell to that position. We're already well acquainted with Cheryl -- she's been a volunteer here for almost a year now. She has recently come to the Eastern Shore and loves the area. She says she can't think of a better place for great birding and lots of other outdoor activities. At Eastern Neck she works at the Butterfly garden, writes for *The Rookery* and helps Cindy with the volunteers. Her background is in environmental education; she taught courses for the University of Rhode Island Master Gardener Program and wrote a weekly garden column for ten years. The main topics of the courses and columns were about gardens that were low maintenance and attracted wildlife. Look for her garden article on page 1 of this issue and another one of her series of informational pieces about a garden plant (a tree this time) on page 6. She's the perfect fit for us and we welcome her to the Board!

✍

Spring is right around the corner! Ospreys will be back soon! C'mon Down!

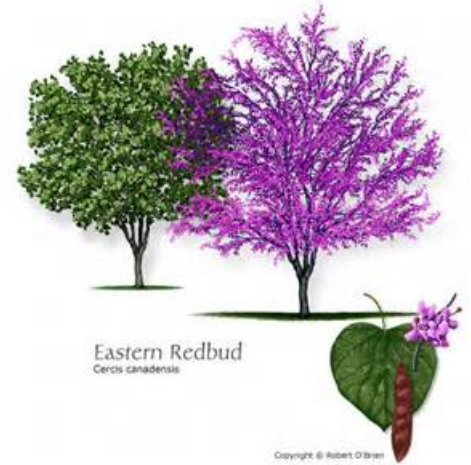
## Butterfly Garden Special: The Eastern Redbud

By  
Cheryl  
Cadwell

A new addition to the Butterfly garden, the Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) brings a bright, colorful surprise for spring. As the weather warms, small rosy red buds appear along each branch; a bit more warmth and these bright buds open up to pink pea-like blossoms. Blooming occurs before any leaves emerge, which gives the tree a bouquet-like appearance. The flowers provide pollen for early butterfly arrivals.

The heart-shaped leaves appear at the end of the twigs and will continue to emerge throughout the summer. The fall color is bright yellow, edged with purple.

Redbud is a small tree that might reach 20 feet with a slightly larger spread. It grows best in full sun, but will tolerate part shade. If in a warm climate, it needs regular watering. It is prone to some diseases and insect problems but keeping it watered and removing dead branches will keep it healthy.



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