



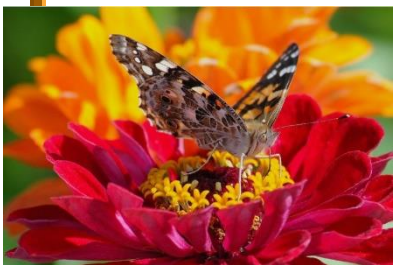
Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge Winter Newsletter 2019

Monarch Meadows Grant

Field preparation started January 2017 and we immediately began to install plants and seeds in the town and club's fields. We've added lots of plant diversity to these fields by planting over 350 new plants, shrubs, and trees to these sites over the course of two years. This grant ended in September, but work at the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club and Town of Falmouth fields continued through this fall until we got every last perennial, shrub, and tree planted. With

club volunteers, we installed an experimental deer enclosure in one field. In just two hours, we dug the posts, installed the fencing and wire,

planted 20 bushes and trees, and 15 perennials that included aster, goldenrod, milkweed, tall beards tongue, lupine, daisy mums, and fennel. Mostly host plants for several of our native butterflies. This enclosure will give these shrubs plenty of time to grow without any nibbling by deer, so when we move this fencing to a new site within 3-5 years, these plants will have grown beyond deer height and mature, producing berries and nuts well into the future for a variety of wildlife such as turkeys, grouse, pheasant, migrating songbirds, and overwintering robins. Due to a number of insurmountable complications, the Teaticket park pollinator meadow was not established. We still hold hope to include this with a future pollinator grant.



Celebrating Our Successes

On a foggy June afternoon, Refuge Partners, WBNERR, Town of Mashpee, and the Friends celebrated a great year with our AmeriCorps members.

Overlooking Waquoit Bay, we shared our stories and companionship while playing corn hole and badminton, singing along with Haymar playing the guitar, and feasting on a great spread and BBQ menu. This was a very competitive group! AmeriCorps Cape Cod members spent many hours working on conservation

areas, improving pollinator gardens, doing trail and chainsaw work at Coonamessett Reservation, and transplanting in the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club fields to name a few big events. All this and more was accomplished on a weekly basis by this dedicated group of AmeriCorps members. The Refuge and its partners are grateful for the amazing efforts of this crew.



Delicious horseshoe crab cookies from the cookout!



Haymar Lim, the WBNERR AmeriCorps placement, celebrates with his supervisor, Nancy Church.



Katelyn Cadoret, MaryKay Fox, and Nancy Church take a goofy picture with some of the AmeriCorps crew.



Grant Helps Local Teacher

Win “Teacher of the Year” Award

Falmouth High School Science Teacher Christine Brothers was awarded the Presidential Award for Innovation for Environmental Educators at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. on September 21. Ms. Brothers, who is the grade 7-12 Science Department Head for Falmouth Public Schools, was one of ten teachers recognized nationally for their innovative work in bringing environmental education into their classrooms through hands-on, experiential approaches.

Ms. Brothers was recognized for her Living Laboratories: Vernal Pools and Pollinator Gardens Project in which teachers and students constructed vernal pools and planted pollinator gardens at Falmouth High School and the Lawrence Junior High School. The vernal pools and pollinator gardens form the basis for an outdoor classroom at each school and were the result of a partnership with the Massachusetts Audubon Society Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge.

Ms. Brothers was also recognized for starting the high school’s AP Environmental Science course five years ago and for the many environmental stewardship projects she has conducted with the high school’s Ecology Club over the 23 years she has served as its adviser.



Photo by Eric Vance, USEPA Captain Sara B. Newman, Director of Public Health for the National Park Service, presents Christine Brothers of Falmouth High School with the Presidential Award for Innovation for Environmental Educators at the US Environmental Protection Agency.

More information can be found at these links:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-honors-award-winning-environmental-education-teachers-and-students>

<https://www.epa.gov/education/presidential-innovation-award-environmental-educators-piaee-winners>

Newly Elected Board Members

At the October 4th Annual meeting, three new officers were elected on the Friends board. They are: Nancy Church as President, Katelyn Cadoret as Clerk, and MaryKay Fox as Treasurer.

These three positions are voted on at each annual meeting according to our bylaws and to Federal 501 C3 nonprofit rules. Other board members are Tom Fudala, as Historian, and Brigit Nelsen, Liaison to Mashpee Environmental Coalition. Please consider joining our board so we can better serve our Refuge and its Partnership. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 5pm in the Mashpee Library. We welcome your involvement and input as we plan for the future!

2019 Friends Board of Directors

President
Nancy Church
Treasurer
MaryKay Fox
Clerk
Katelyn Cadoret
Historian
Thomas Fudala
MEC Liaison
Birgit Nelson
Emeritus Directors
Mary Scanlan
David T. Vieira



New Pollinator and Monarch Migration Banners

The Friends have increased their capacity to engage the public and bring more awareness to native pollinator issues by designing and purchasing two new banners. These two banners are mounted on a double-sided, stand alone, outdoor portable banner unit.



On one side, the monarch migration story is beautifully displayed with great photos and a map showing the three distinct butterfly populations and their relationship with milkweed distribution. The second banner features native pollinators and suggests how everyone can help make a difference by:

1. Planting milkweed
2. Creating their own backyard garden full of nectaring plants
3. Donating to conservation organization to support their habitats

All the Refuge partners logos are proudly displayed on this banner.

The Friends hope the Refuge partners take advantage of this resource and offer the use of this banner for any event throughout the year. The banner will live at the Mashpee Conservation office. Please contact Katelyn Cadoret to reserve your dates (Katelyn is at 508-539-8538 or kwcadoret@mashpeema.gov). The Friends got very positive comments on the banner at the Mashpee Oktoberfest. It certainly draws the public in and facilitates conversation that leads to the showcasing the Mashpee Refuge, its partnership, and ongoing conservation efforts.

Creature Feature Corner

The Bufflehead Duck



Male Bufflehead Duck

Female Bufflehead Duck and Ducklings

With a fluffy head named for its resemblance to a buffalo's, the Bufflehead duck has returned for the winter! The smallest of the North American diving ducks, they plunge for around 12 seconds, and feed on anything from crabs, to mussels, to pondweed seeds. They aren't that picky! Their smaller size is to their advantage—they often live in the abandoned nesting cavities of Northern flickers, which larger ducks cannot fit in. Buffleheads are a romantic species of duck, as they're one of the few where mates return to each other year after year (after the male leaves during incubation to molt). Populations are steady, despite habitat loss as boreal forests are cleared for agriculture and logging, so get out and enjoy these seasonal visitors while they're around!

For more information, visit these sites below!

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bufflehead/overview>

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/bufflehead>



Friends Event News

Friends have been busy spreading the news about the Refuge and about native pollinator issues this past year. Since our last newsletter (Spring 2018) we've attended several events, given talks at Falmouth Garden Club, Mashpee Senior Center, and the Oyster Pond Environmental Land Trust Annual Meeting, and worked on the three grants— the Monarch and Native Pollinator Meadows, the Refuge History, and the new & improved Refuge Trails guide.

(right) Falmouth Girls Scouts planting native plants for Teaticket Park and personal gardens at the Waquoit Conservational Church on March 29, 2018.



(bottom) On Sunday October 14, 2018 with the help of 16 Pollinator Committee Members, we made a deer-proof enclosure to surround the native bushes and plants we put in. A great day with many hands to make light work! We continue to make progress and improvements to the club's five-acre pollinator gardens.



New AmeriCorps Members

AmeriCorps Year 20 is now in full swing and members have been busy since their arrival in September! Two that are serving at organizations within the Mashpee Refuge are Rachel Robinson (Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve) and Makayla Stepp-Davis (Town of Mashpee). Rachel is from Southern Illinois, and is currently taking a gap year. Her favorite things are doing art, playing music, and being outdoors with people as much as possible. She loves science and working with children, so she is having a blast combining the two to do educational programming with WBNERR. She is also assisting with the Friends' webpage and newsletters. Makayla is from New York and went to school at the University of Mary Washington in Virginia, with a major in environmental geology and a minor in environmental sustainability. She was once attacked by a sea lion, but survived and now she serves with Town of Mashpee DNR and Conservation. Both are having an amazing experience in the program so far, and look forward to making more of an impact on the Mashpee Refuge and all of Cape Cod.



Makayla (left) and Rachel (right) pose in their most fashionable shellfishing gear during a group service day.

Time to renew your membership!

Join our [mailing list](#).

Check out our [website](#).

Like us on [Facebook](#)!

Look for Upcoming Refuge Events in the Spring 2019 Newsletter!



Membership Form

Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge
PO Box 1283, Mashpee, MA 02649
508-292-3707

YES! I want to support the **Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge** - enclosed are my due as checked below

Name

Phone

(H) _____

(C) _____

Mailing Address

Email Address

Date

Enclose payment for the membership:
Make checks payable to: F.M.N.W.R.

- Junior (18 and under) \$10
- Individual \$25
- Family \$50
- Conservation Friend \$100
- Wildlife Sponsor \$200
- Refuge Sponsor \$500
- Lifetime Gift \$1000
- Corporate Gift \$ _____
- Other \$ _____

Volunteer Form

I would be interested in the following opportunities listed below

- Webpage, Admin, PR
- Stewardship Projects
- Newsletter Guru
- Native Pollinator Gardens
- Educational talks/Walks
- Volunteer & Membership Coordinator