



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

Fall 2025/Winter 2026 Newsletter

Hello Refuge Friends!

This time of year is a chance to celebrate what our community has accomplished together—from habitat stewardship and trail improvements to educational programs and citizen-science efforts. It's also a moment to look ahead, strengthening our shared commitment to protecting the rare ecosystems and the species that depend on them in the Mashpee NWR.

Construction of a "lasagna garden" at KC Coombs School in Mashpee exemplifies this well, literally laying a foundation for future Spring plantings. Our new AmeriCorps Cape Cod member, Alayna Krempa, who joined us in October, was integral to this effort and we look forward to many new projects and efforts she will lead. Alayna has also been educating seventh grade science students at Lawrence School in Falmouth about cold stratification of native seeds. This issue features articles both by and about Alayna.

As we continue our work, we're excited to welcome more people into the fold. If you've ever considered getting more involved—whether through volunteering, lending your skills to a project, or helping shape the future of our organization—we'd love to hear from you! We're also seeking new additions to our Board of Directors. If you're passionate about conservation, community engagement and the long-term stewardship of this remarkable place, we invite you to step forward and join us in guiding the next chapter.

Whether you're a longtime supporter or newly connected to our mission, we're grateful to share this journey with you. Thank you for being part of the Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. Together, we help ensure that this extraordinary landscape thrives—through every season.

Thank you for your continued support of our vibrant organization!

Glenn Davis and MaryKay Fox
Co-Presidents
Friends of Mashpee NWR

P.S.: If you haven't already renewed your membership, and/or want to get more involved in the Friends organization, see the mail-in form below (or [click here](#) to donate online). More information is always available on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page, with up-to-date info on upcoming events and other Refuge news. Thank you again for your support!

Please scroll down to read more.

2025-26 AmeriCorps Service Member: Alayna Krempa
by Alayna Krempa, 2025-26 AmeriCorps Member



I am the 2025-2026 AmeriCorps Cape Cod member placed with the Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. My main role will be aiding in the nonprofit's educational and volunteer programming.

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A Lasagna Recipe for Pollinators

by Alayna Krempa, 2025-26 AmeriCorps Member



Why would anyone want to make lasagna out of waste? To help pollinators, of course! On November 4, I had the pleasure of implementing my first project as an AmeriCorps individual placement with the Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. Unlike its namesake, a “lasagna” garden does not include pasta, cheese, and tomato sauce but rather natural waste products that can be utilized to promote plant growth!

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Bring on the Brrrr: Cold Stratification of Native Seeds

by Alayna Krempa, 2025-26 AmeriCorps Member



In New England, germination code “C” is common among native plant species, including seaside goldenrod, butterfly milkweed, and blue vervain. For these species, seeds require exposure to cold and damp temperatures to germinate, a process known as cold stratification. Germination code “C” species have evolved seeds that withstand cold temperatures by ensuring that the seeds will not germinate too early.

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Creature Feature:

Not-So-Scary Species: The Big Brown Bat

by Alayna Krempa, 2025-26 AmeriCorps Member



The Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) is the most common bat species in the state of Massachusetts. Due to media portrayals and misconceptions, many associate fear, nuisance, and disease with the presence of these small mammals. Let's take a look into how bats may be more of a friend than a foe!

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Mashpee NWR Celebrates its 30th Anniversary!



2025 commemorated the 30th Anniversary of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. A celebratory event, originally scheduled for October 2025, was postponed in the spirit of ensuring this milestone can be celebrated in a way that truly reflects the refuge's legacy and the partnerships that sustain it. Stay tuned for plans in the coming months!

Please check our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for other upcoming events, activities and volunteer opportunities. Also, don't miss the Town of Mashpee Interpretive Nature Tours on Saturday mornings (see our [events calendar](#) for details)!

2026 Friends of Mashpee NWR Board of Directors:

Glenn Davis, Co-President, Co-Treasurer

MaryKay Fox, Co-President, Co-Treasurer

Lucinda Keith, Clerk

Neil Barkin

Katelyn Cadoret

F Thomas Fudala, Historian

Tania Lewandowski

Membership Form

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

Name: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____
Street: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____
Email: _____

Enclose payment for the membership - please make checks payable to: **FMNWR**
Mail to: **FMNWR, P.O. Box 1283, Mashpee, MA 02649**

Thank you!

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

Donate Online

Volunteer Form

I would be interested in the following opportunities listed below:

- Stewardship Projects
- Newsletter Editor
- Native Pollinator Gardens
- Education Talks/Walks, Events at Schools
- Volunteer & Membership Coordinator
- Interest in Serving on Board of Directors

The Friends meet virtually on the first Tuesday of each month at 5pm on Google Meet. Please join us and get involved with Refuge projects, Friends group, pollinators and community events! If interested, email us at info@fmnwr.org for an invite.



Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge
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