



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

Spring 2026 Newsletter

Hello Refuge Friends!

This Spring was devoted to a series of educational programs, including engaging presentations by our AmeriCorps Cape Cod Member, Alayna Krempa, on pollinator gardening, the history of the Mashpee NWR and "not-so-scary" creatures found in the Refuge. In fact, this issue contains not one, but *two* Creature Features devoted to some of these Refuge inhabitants. FMNWR Co-President Glenn Davis also offered an exciting program on ospreys at the Mashpee Public Library.

Some upcoming events... Alayna will be leading two more informative trail walks in our Guided Walk Series, on July 7th at Jehu Pond Conservation Area, and July 14th in the Quashnet River Corridor. Also, coming on July 30th, don't miss "Raising Monarch Butterflies" with FMNWR Co-President MaryKay Fox!

We're continuing progress to establish a Visitor Center for the MNWR! We are finalizing an agreement with the Town of Mashpee for a site at 475 Nathan Ellis Hwy (Rt 151). We recently received approval from the Mashpee Community Preservation Committee (CPC) on a funding request for the exterior of the property. We hope to keep the momentum going through the Summer and Fall!

The osprey nest at the Waquoit Bay Reserve has two thriving offspring who should begin to fledge over the next couple of weeks. Sadly, the third, youngest, chick did not survive, likely due to extreme heat and lack of food. A couple of weeks ago, the chicks were banded for research, tracking and identification purposes. Read more below about this event. And if you don't already follow our streaming webcam, you can access it live at fmnwr.org/osprey.

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge!

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.

Gardening for a Better Cape: Promoting Pollination and Native Species

by Christina Jacobi, FMNWR Member



FMNWR AmeriCorps service member Alayna Krempe gave a presentation titled, "Gardening for a Better Cape: Promoting Pollination and Native Species" on April 28th at the Falmouth Library.

Alayna talked about pollination and gave suggestions for a variety of garden options to suit different spaces.

[Read More...](#)

Osprey Nest at Waquoit Bay Reserve: Banding of the Chicks

by Glenn Davis, FMNWR Co-President



On Monday, June 22nd the three chicks at the nest at the Waquoit Bay Reserve were banded by DCR's Office of Natural Resources, with assistance from DCR Forestry, and volunteers from Waquoit Bay Reserve, the Friends of Mashpee NWR and Mass Audubon. Having the chicks banded will help for future identification, tracking of sightings as they migrate, when they return, and other research purposes.

[Read More...](#)

Creature Feature #1: Not-So-Scary Species: Fowler's Toad

by Alayna Krempe, 2025-26 AmeriCorps Member



Fowler's Toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*) is a nocturnal species of amphibian that is native to the eastern USA and southeastern Canada. These slimy, bumpy creatures can be found in the wetland areas of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge and can be heard at night throughout the spring and summer!

[Read More...](#)

Creature Feature #2:

Not-So-Scary Species: American Eel

by Alayna Krempa, 2025-26 AmeriCorps Member



The American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) is North America's only freshwater eel. While they live mostly in rivers and estuaries, they are catadromous, meaning they migrate into the ocean to breed. You may think of eels as slimy monsters that hide in the shadows of the water; however, these long fish are much more than they seem!

[Read More...](#)

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

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

info@fmnwr.org

www.fmnwr.org

FMNWR

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