



# Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve

News --- # 9

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July 2005

## Third Annual Spring Bird Walk —

We are grateful to Frank Windfelder for finding the time each year to lead a spring bird walk for us.

This year, at Frank's suggestion we went to the new Burlington County Amico Island Park in Delran, near Dredge Harbor on Saturday, April 30, arriving just before the park opened at 8:00. The park is a 55-acre peninsula made up of upland forest, a pond, wetlands, river shoreline and meadows. We took the mile long Blue Trail on the southern part of the peninsula and saw and heard a lot of different varieties of birds, in spite of the fact that, in Frank's words, birds "tend to hunker down" in the rain.

We, however, did not feel the need to hunker down, and, as always, learned a lot. Did you know, for example, that birds do not have a very developed sense of smell, because most of them are diurnal and can depend on sight? Even the nocturnal owl depends mainly on hearing and sight, Frank explained. We also learned that since industrial dumping began to be carefully controlled about 20 to 30 years ago, the river began to be cleaner, and fish began coming back, so water birds have come back too. (That seems to be what brought Helix, the Beluga Whale to the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, too.) A negative change in the river over the decades has been that now that the river has been bulk headed almost entirely to control flooding, from Trenton to Wilmington, a vast number of areas that used to be marshes no longer are. That is why we no longer have many Rails or Avocets in this area any more.

Frank offered to take us to the preserve at Palmyra Harbor next year. We'll plan to schedule a rain date.

This year's participants were, Sam and Kathy Carswell, Suzanne Day, Patti Farley, Chuck Mattern, Sandy Rea, and Takashi and Kitty Mizuno

Bird list, with a few more comments from Frank:

1. Solitary Sandpiper (found on small ponds)
2. Yellow Warbler
3. Redwing Blackbird
4. Tree Swallow
5. Barn Swallow (reddish breast makes them brighter than the European Barn Swallow, which the British usually call just swallows, ignoring that there are many kinds)
6. Rough Winged Swallow
7. Warbling Vireo (a little brown job)
8. Cowbird (A parasite. It finds other birds' nests, pushes out the eggs and lays its own.)
9. Song Sparrow (Misnamed. Their song is not so impressive.)
10. Northern Flicker
11. Great Blue Heron (This year we looked at the heronry from the opposite side of its island than we usually do when we see it from the Harbor Reef State land. Frank said there are supposed to be Black Crowned Night Herons there too, though we didn't see any.)
12. Double Crested Cormorant (Frank said he finds it strange that these birds, like laughing gulls are here in large numbers, but nest only at the shore, not here.)

13. Canada Geese
14. Northern Water Thrush (“Chip chip, chup chup, chip chip”)
15. Gray Catbird (very scratchy, rough, slow warble)
16. Mallard Ducks
17. House Wren
18. Common Yellowthroat
19. Blue-gray gnatcatcher (thin call)
20. Mourning Dove
21. Starling
22. White throated Sparrow
23. Cardinal

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### Preserving Buffers to the Preserve —

The committee formed at this year’s annual meeting in February is working on looking into how to ensure the preservation of land contiguous to the Wildlife Preserve in its natural state. The two parcels of land in question now are NJ Tidelands Bureau land south of Wright’s Cove, and a 6 acre parcel fronting St. Mihiel Drive (River Road) in Delran. They are gathering information from the Cinnaminson Municipal

Office, and are in contact with the NJ Bureau of Tidelands Management about this. To our knowledge, there are no plans to “develop” either of these parcels. Our goal is to keep it this way.

The committee members are Michael Robinson, Mike Zickler, Suzanne Day and Kitty Mizuno.

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### Work Days —

For the first time we had two early spring cleanup days this spring, on Sunday, March 13, and Saturday, April 9. Some of the major projects were to clean up trash, put up ‘No ATV’ signs, and repair part of the river bank on Wright’s Point that was damaged by the flood in early April. Special thanks to the following people who participated:

Chuck Mattern, Evan Margerum, Sal Scafidi, Suzanne Day, Sandy Rea, Stephanie Judson, Elizabeth, Emily and Larry Tatum, David Oiler, Tom Bailey, Joe Sousa, Carolyn and Tom Bujak, Louisa Khanlian, Chris Haw, Andrea Feuch, Elissa Lesle, and Takashi and Kitty Mizuno.

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## Taylor's Lane 'Toon

By Joel Zickler



## **Habitat Restoration Project**

*By Kitty Taylor Mizuno*

Friends of Taylor Wildlife Preserve (FTWP) is working with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust and New Jersey American Water to restore a 3+ acre section of the Harbor Reef land to its natural state as an ideal habitat for songbirds, butterflies and small mammals. This land, which the FTWP was instrumental in rescuing from a townhouse “development” project, was once used for vegetable farming. In recent years invasive nonindigenous plants, such as multiflora rose, Lespedeza, phragmites, ailanthus, Japanese honeysuckle and mile-a-minute have been threatening to take over the field.

Thanks to the Delaware Estuary Program, who came up with grant money from the William Penn Foundation, and a project proposal, we have been working this spring on controlling the invasive growth and planting indigenous warm season grass seed to replace it. We began by mowing the area with a brush hog before the rush of spring growth, being careful not to disturb areas of desirable native growth. Then we spread a seed inhibitor to discourage the growth of the invasive species. Finally we planted indigenous warm season grass seed, including little blue stem and switch grass. These grasses, along with other native plants such as goldenrod provide cover and seed that birds and small mammals need.

This field is next to the mature hardwood forest that makes up about 75 percent of the Harbor Reef Preserve that belongs to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, which the FTWP assists with maintenance. This forest community has supported nesting red shouldered hawk, and probably great horned owl and other forest birds. The island in Dredge Harbor next to it has been a nesting place for great blue herons for a number of years. The invasive plants that we are working to control in the meadow next to this forest area are a threat to the structure, composition and function of this forested community as well.

We believe that our natural habitat protection project will be an invaluable extension of the contiguous Taylor Wildlife Preserve. We hope many of you will be able to come and see the fruits of our labors.

Particular thanks for work on this project go to Jenn Jones of the Delaware Estuary Program, Martin Rapp of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, John Spangler of New Jersey American Water, and Takashi Mizuno of FTWP.

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## **Flooding**

*By Kitty Taylor Mizuno*

The Wildlife Preserve was doused with the biggest flooding of the Delaware River in several years when the water came over the bank in several places on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The swamp absorbed most of the extra water, so that damage was limited primarily to erosion of the river bank in several places. Thanks to the work crew who volunteered on the April 9 Work Day, we were able to build up the area of river bank around the bench on Wright’s Point with rock and gravel. The Taylor Farm had fields and yards full of water around the Fergosi, Tatum and Taylor farmhouses. It was a novel experience to see the mallard ducks and Canada geese swimming around where we usually walk. No sooner had the water receded, though, than the lesser celandine and other flowers were up and out and blooming as usual. Their power of recovery was an inspiration!

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## **FTWP 2005 Annual Meeting—**

The annual meeting was held February 5, 2005. Co-Chair Kitty Taylor Mizuno opened the meeting.

Present: Kitty Taylor Mizuno, Sal Scafidi, Sandy Rea, Suzanne Day Taylor, Patti Farley, Stephanie Judson, Takashi Mizuno, Charles Mattern, Michael Robinson, Mike Zickler, Jim Holzman, Gary & Nathan Rausch, Louisa Khanlian, Catharine Magee Karsten, Caroline Bujak, Rebecca Fergosi, Jim Mann, Jonathan Snipes, Samuel Snipes, Larry Tatum, Emily Tatum, Katherine Tatum

- *Treasurer's report*

Treasurer Sandy Rea submitted the Treasurer's Annual Report for February 2004 through February 2005. Sandy submitted the 990EZ tax forms for years 2003 and 2004 before the November 15 deadline and they have been approved. The penalties stipulated in 2 letters were subsequently reversed, and no penalties are owed.

- *Review of 2004 Activities*

1. Solstice Potluck Picnic and dedication of marker in honor of Hal Taylor (June 20, 2004)
2. Cleanup Day (March 21, 2004)
3. Bird walk with Frank Windfelder (May 1, 2004)
4. Published Newsletter #8 in May 2004
5. Talk and walk around the Wildlife Preserve with Martin Rapp of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, Jen Porter of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and John Spangler of the NJ American Water Company about a proposal for a habitat restoration matching grant program. (Aug. 25, 2004)
6. Delaware Estuary Celebration and awards event. FTWP received an award for Land Stewardship.
7. Eagle Scout project by Nathan Rausch to discourage ATV's
8. Trash can placed at the bus stop
9. Spraying of poison ivy on the trails

- *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust.*

A change was requested to the Memorandum of Understanding in Section 9, which states "The term of the agreement shall be five years." We would like it to say that the agreement shall be binding in perpetuity. We do not want this agreement to be limited to five years. It was also agreed we should seek "auto renewal" of the agreement. Kitty Taylor Mizuno to follow

up with New Jersey Natural Lands Trust on this change.

- *Record of Birds Sighted.*

Tom Evans has offered to record in a database ("avisys") the birds seen each year at the preserve. The members voiced approval to request Tom to proceed; Kitty will contact Tom.

- *Bird Walk.*

Frank Windfelder agreed to lead a bird walk. This year the walk was at the new Amico Island Park in Delran. (See the article elsewhere in this newsletter).

**Following adjournment of the meeting it was determined there are Board members whose terms expire this year:**

Bruce Birchard  
Suzanne Day Taylor  
Patti Farley  
Kitty Taylor Mizuno  
Sandy Rea

The following agreed to extend their terms for 2 more years.

Suzanne Day Taylor  
Patti Farley  
Kitty Taylor Mizuno  
Sandy Rea

**Addendum of 5/30/05:**

There have been two new appointments to the Executive Board: Michael Robinson and Takashi Mizuno. They replace Bruce Birchard and Sal Scafidi, who have both moved out of New Jersey

**Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve Officers:**

The following officers agreed to serve for the year 2005:

Chair: Kitty Mizuno  
Vice-Chair: Suzanne Day  
Treasurer: Sandy Rea  
Secretary: Patti Farley

TO: Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve  
3 Taylor's Lane  
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077-1609

Here's \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ as a donation to help FTWP.

Here's \$ \_\_\_\_\_ additional contribution. (FTWP is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions may be deducted as provided by law.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve**

Kitty Mizuno .....Chair  
Suzanne Day ..... Vice Chair  
Sandy Rea ..... Treasurer  
Patti Farley ..... Secretary

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