



Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve

News --- # 10

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June 2006

In Memorium —

Lyle Tatum was a founding member and first President of Friends of Taylor Wildlife Preserve. Lyle died at the age of 87 in April in Maryland; his memorial service was held at Haddonfield Meeting on April 22, 2006.

Along with Joe and Syb Taylor, Lyle, for several generations was keenly interested in the hydrology, flora, and fauna of the land that now forms the Taylor Wildlife Preserve. Lyle's care, steady stewardship of the land, and his persistent fight for what he believed in lies at the foundation of not only the land and wildlife here but also our intention to continue as stewards of the preserve so that many may enjoy it far into the future.

Lyle's poem to his father reveals Lyle's admiration of qualities he saw in his father that many of us admired in Lyle. We reprint the poem here with deep appreciation for all Lyle did for FTWP.

For Dad at Ninety

Seeing that old, bald man
shuffling down the hall
contrasts sadly with flashbacks
to years of greater energy.
But waste not your sympathy
on that tattered remnant
of a weaver.
He stands tall for justice.

Others weary in the cause,
but he will run forever.
Let compassion flow and flood;
stretch and try to reach his vigor.

Hungry family
Exploited oldster
Retarded child
Political dissident
Wounded soldier
Tortured prisoner
War-torn refugee
Deprived minority

A quiet, unknown fighter
he has been for these and more,
seeing needs ahead of others,
placing self in midst of struggle;

Deceptive that sight
which sees him shuffle.
He takes and teaches
long strides for justice.

-- Lyle Tatum

Fourth Annual Spring Bird Walk —

This year's participants were: Frank Windfelder (leader), Patti Farley, Louisa Khanlian, Kathy and Sam Carswell, Kay Smith, Ruth Fink, Paul Curtis, Takashi and Kitty Mizuno.

This year Frank Windfelder led us on a walk at the Palmyra Cove nature preserve, just south of the Tacony Palmyra Bridge. There is something about the topography there that brings a rich variety of birds there. We had a rewarding walk on a sunny, cool and windy day, starting at 7:00 in the morning.

Some of the birds we saw and heard were, with some of Frank's comments:

1. Baltimore Oriole ("Beautiful bird, beautiful song", says Frank. It sings "wheat, wheat, wheat, wheat, real sweet!")
2. Yellowthroat
3. Redwing Blackbird
4. Tree Swallows (Tom Bailey of FTWP has cleaned out their nest boxes in the "Big Pit" area. There used to be Sedges and sparrows around the "Big Pit", but they didn't come back after the dredger fill was put there.)
5. Yellow Warbler (calls "Tweet, tweet, tweet, I'm so sweet!")
6. Cowbird
7. Mockingbird
8. Palm Warbler (It pumps its tail. Both Eastern and Western Palm Warblers can be seen around here in the fall, but in the spring only the Eastern, that are yellow underneath, come through here.)
9. American Goldfinch ("Their call is so variable, they fool you every time", says Frank.)
10. Towhee (also called Chewink after one of it's calls, is the largest of the sparrows. It also calls "Drink your tea!")
11. Flicker
12. Northern Cardinal
13. House Wren (low chattering. "Little bird, big song", says Frank.)
14. Warbling Vireo (calls "ree, ree, ree, ree, RIT!")
15. Orchard Oriole (Males are brick-red color. First-year males are still yellow like females, but with a black throat.)

16. Yellow Warbler (There are lots of them in the Open Willow Woods, where there are lots of insects. In the warbler family of birds, males come back north first, followed by females later.)
17. Black and White Warbler
18. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (nasal high-pitched call) (Frank spotted one of their silvery-gray wispy cone nests for us, with a bird sitting on it.)
19. Robin
20. White Throated Sparrow (They are on their way through said Frank, and will disappear north soon.)
21. European Starling
22. Downy Woodpecker
23. Myrtle Warbler (nests north of here)
24. Hermit Thrush ("They're almost gone now.")
25. Wood Thrush
26. Rose Breasted Grosbeak
27. Carolina Wren
28. Gray Catbird
29. A pair of Red-Tailed Hawks
30. Cooper's Hawk (They nest at the Taylor refuge, in the pine woods.)
31. Red-Bellied Woodpecker

Frank told us about some of the areas in the Palmyra Cove refuge, including the "Big Pit" and the "Little Pit." He said that last year there were Pied Billed Grebes on the former, but that he is afraid they might not come back because it dried up last summer. The "Little Pit" he recommends as a "great place to bird". It's the best area to look for migrants, he said. He also recommends walking further downriver to a large cove across which is a "bridge that goes nowhere". We didn't have time to do that this year.

He also called our attention to some of the plant growth, noting that much of it is badly over-browsed by deer, leaving behind too much stinging nettle and knotweed that deer don't like. Some butterflies, however, such as the Eastern Comma and Red Admiral, love the nettles and can be seen there. They also like the hops that grow there. Two typical native trees that grow in this area are the tall Eastern

Cottonwood, that has cottony seeds in June and July, and the Black Willow that attracts insects that so many birds like. But it is not so much the special vegetation that attracts so many birds to Palmyra Cove, Frank explained. It is something about the topography and the river. He's sure though, he told us, that when he gets to heaven he'll find Black Willows, Baltimore Orioles and Yellow Warblers. We're glad he's not ready to go to heaven yet, though. He agreed to lead another walk for us next year, possible to the Amico Park in Delran, since the weather was so bad when we went there last year.

Kitty Taylor Mizuno

Habitat Restoration Project —

A little more than a year ago the FTWP, with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust and New Jersey American Water, began a project to restore a 3+ acre section of the Harbor Reef land next to our wildlife preserve to its natural state by controlling invasive plant species that had begun to dominate there.

The goal has been to make it a better habitat for native songbirds, butterflies and small mammals by limiting the amount of multiflora rose, Lespedeza, phragmites, ailanthus, Japanese honeysuckle and mile-a-minute that had begun to grow there, so that indigenous warm season grasses, including little blue stem and switch grass that we planted there last spring, along with other native plants such as goldenrod can grow and provide cover and seed that birds and small mammals need.

We will be observing the growth in this area, and keep you posted. For more information about what we have done so far, see the FTWP Newsletter of July 2005.

Clean Up Day —

Kitty Taylor Mizuno

The scheduled Clean-Up Day was rained out on Sat., April 8. So Sunday, April 9, the group met and faced a long list of projects – most agreed to during the FTWP Annual Meeting on February 26:

—Pick up trash

Ten trash bags and 3 recycle bags were filled

—Repair and replace trail signs

—Put up two No Dumping signs

—Repair the riverbank between the tulip poplar and the sluice gate

—Replace stones that have gone down on the river shore

—Fill in the sink hole on the riverbank

—Clean out the sluice gate

—Clean area around beaver dam, including remaining evidence of someone's campfire

—Remove green briars and poison ivy

—Clean up fallen trees and branches

In addition fence barriers were repaired and we chased off ATV riders.

Thank you to participants:

Kitty Taylor Mizuno

Takashi Mizuno

Suzanne Day

Patti Farley

Chuck Mattern

Tom Bailey

Nick Kakaroukas

Louisa Khanlian

Emily Tatum

Elizabeth Tatum

Catherine Tatum

Tom Bujak

Joseph Bujak

Becky Fergosi

Jim Mann

Tori Fergosi-Mann

Adjoining Properties —

In June of 2005, the FTWP contacted the Bureau of Tidelands Management to request that we be included as an interested party in any change of status proposed for the two waterfront Bureau of Tidelands properties immediately downriver from the Taylor Preserve.

The properties are Cinnaminson Block 307 Lot 3.01 (the 19.60 acres immediately adjacent to the Preserve) and Cinnaminson Block 307 Lot 2.01 (23.77 acres adjacent to Lot 3.01). These properties constitute a buffer between the Preserve and the Kaplan development.

The FTWP was granted interested party status, and we will be notified in the event of any attempt by private or public bodies to acquire the land, at which time we will do our best to assure the preservation of this buffer. The Pompeston Creek Watershed Association has requested that we add the PCWA to the interested parties, which we will do. Meanwhile, we intend to explore possibilities for a more definite preservation of the properties, including the involvement of County agencies.

Michael Robinson

FTWP 2006 Annual Meeting—

The annual meeting was held February 26, 2006.

Chair Kitty Taylor Mizuno opened the meeting.

Present: Kitty Taylor Mizuno, Sandy Rea, Patti Farley, Takashi Mizuno, Louisa Khanlian, Bennett Landsman, Catherine McCann Landsman, Tom Bailey, Mike Zickler, Chuck Mattern, Jim Mann, Stephanie Judson, Carolyn Bujak, Kathy Carswell

Regrets: Michael Robinson, Larry Tatum, Rebecca Fergosi, Martha Windisch

➤ *Treasurer's report*

Treasurer Sandy Rea submitted the Treasurer's Annual Report for February 2005 through February 2006.

There is still a question concerning the "donation" vs. "dues" issue. We are not certain if, per IRS

regulations, we are required to collect dues. Sandy will look into this. Donations are tax deductible; dues are not. As of 2005, membership is now applied when a donation of at least \$10 is made per year.

Michael Colucci of Colucci & Slattery, P.C., in Horsham, PA, continues to provide invaluable assistance.

➤ *Review of 2005 Activities*

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust. The MOU was signed in May 2005 and forwarded to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust. Its term length is five (5) years.
2. Bird walk with Frank Windfelder at Amico Island (April 9, 2005)
3. Cleanup Day (Sunday, March 13 and Saturday, April 9, 2005)
4. Newsletter #9 produced in June 2005
5. Committee formed concerning the NJ Tidelands Bureau land south of Wright's cove
6. Habitat restoration on Harbor Reef land
7. Bus stop trash can--
The container placed at the site has successfully reduced ground trash that spills onto the preserve and surrounding wetlands. Patti Farley will continue to empty it periodically.

➤ *Other Business*

1. Six acre plot of land adjacent to the preserve--
Kitty Mizuno read a status update from Mike Robinson in his absence:
"As for the 6-acre property along River Road, adjacent to the 47-acre preserved area, there has been no response from the County. I brought it up with them at a recent meeting in Moorestown, and will try again, formally, to interest them in acquiring the land, although that seems quite unlikely."
2. Trail signs--
Kitty has been corresponding with Martha Windisch of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust. Ms. Windisch proposes we take

advantage of a grant for replacement of trail signs. The application must go out in September 2006 and is due in December 2006; it would be granted in August 2007. We do not have an accurate count of existing signs; best guess is that there are 12, although some may be missing. Erosion and vandalism are the two main problems plaguing existing signs. There was discussion that we should make a trail plan and obtain new signs for the Lands Trust portion of the property as well as replace existing signs. Discussion ensued concerning the best material and method for the sign posts. Patti Farley suggested we keep the traditional map drawn by Joe Taylor and add to it or create an addendum if needed.

A committee was appointed consisting of Patti Farley, Kitty Taylor Mizuno, and Mike Zickler. This committee will inventory existing signs, consult with Chuck Mattern and Tom Bailey concerning materials, make recommendations of the number of signs we want to apply for, determine where signs should be placed and ensure that the text of the signs match the setting.

3. Re-orienting the marker in honor of Hal Taylor--
Suzanne Day will be consulted on asking the company that installed the marker to rectify the alignment. In case it is needed, an “adjustment” allotment of up to \$200 was approved to allow this work to be done without delay.

4. Change to the By-Laws--
A change to the By-Laws was ratified. In Section 5 “Annual Meeting” on page 2. The original reads:

Items of business which members wish to have considered should be forwarded to any member of the Executive Committee at least 15 days before the Annual Meeting. An agenda will be sent out to all members 10 days before the meeting.

The change removes the second sentence; an agenda will not be sent to all members before the meeting. The secretary will continue to mail a flyer announcing the date, time, and location in advance of the meeting.

5. Bird Blind--
Tom Bailey, Chuck Mattern, and Sandy Rea agreed to research a bird blind for Orchard Way.
6. No Dumping Signs--
Jim Mann will look into obtaining “No Dumping” signs to deter the dumping that is a constant problem.
7. Concerns over deer--
Tom Bailey pointed out that deer are over-browsing the preserve and suggested we investigate deer reduction solutions as that taken in Monmouth County. Kitty will consult with Martin Rapp of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust.

Executive Committee:

The following members agreed to extend their terms on the Executive Committee for two more years.

Patti Farley (2007)
Kitty Taylor Mizuno (2007)
Takashi Mizuno (2007)
Sandy Rea (2007)
Suzanne Day (2007)
Michael Robinson (2007)

The following Board members have another year remaining on their terms of office:

Stephanie Judson (2006)
Chuck Mattern (2006)
Mike Zickler (2006)
Larry Tatum (2006)

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
2 Taylor’s Lane
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077-1609

Here’s _____ as a donation to help FTWP.
(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: _____

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

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