

The Overlook

Autumn 2016

www.FriendsOfIroquoisNWR.org

Banner Photo by Kathy Robinson

Second Year of Every Kid in a Park Pass Gives Access to Public Lands and Waters

The Obama Administration launched the second year of the **Every Kid in a Park** program to give fourth graders and their families free access to federal lands and waters nationwide for a full year.

Fourth graders can log onto the Every Kid website at www.everykidinapark.gov and complete a fun educational activity in order to obtain and print their free pass, which allows access to national parks, forests, national wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries. The pass is valid from September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2017, and grants free entry for fourth graders and up to three accompanying adults (or an entire non-commercial vehicle for drive-in parks) at more than 2,000 sites across the country.



“The **Every Kid in a Park** program is unlocking natural curiosity in children by encouraging them to explore our nation’s most spectacular places,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.

By introducing fourth graders to public lands, the **Every Kid in a Park** program is part of a multi-pronged approach to inspire the next generation to discover all that the nation’s public lands and waters have to offer.

Visitors to the Every Kid in a Park website will find several new features this year. Educators and community leaders can access educational activities, field trip options, information and tools in English and Spanish, and have the ability to print passes for their classrooms. Parents can find additional links to plan trips.

Click here to: [Watch a video with highlights from Every Kid in a Park from last year.](#)

For more information, please visit www.everykidinapark.gov and follow the program on:

[Twitter@everykidinapark](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)

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FINWR Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 5, 2016
10:00 AM - Noon
ALL Members are Welcome!

FINWR Board of Directors

Officers:

Sandra Mendel (President)
Ann Fournier (VP)
Taunya Abaya (Treasurer)
Jocelyn Welton (Secretary)

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Wildlife Biologist
Larry Balsamo
Maintenance Mechanic
Madeline Prush
Biological Technician
Tanya Preisch
Administrative Support Assistant

Refuge Contact

www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois/
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Overlook Newsletter

is provided 4 times per year.
Article submissions for each newsletter are due:
* early January (Winter)
* early May (Spring)
* early August (Summer)
* early October (Fall)

President's Message

Dear Friends of Iroquois NWR,

Autumn has finally shown her colors and we are enjoying our annual dose of spectacular fall foliage, a great time to visit Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge! Fall and winter are special times at the refuge; fall migration brings some welcome feathered friends to our marshes and pools on their way south and winter is a world of beauty and peace. Trails are open daily and headquarters is open weekends in October and Monday through Friday throughout the year. Just a ride through the refuge with stops at the overlooks makes for a pleasant day.

Work is continuing on the new **headquarters trail** with completion coming soon. The new trail is a welcome addition to our refuge and we are all looking forward to exploring the new trail and its habitats.

There have been some recent developments with the proposed Frontier Stone Quarry project and we are monitoring the activities. FINWR has sent a letter to the Town of Shelby supporting their proposed rezoning law that promotes conservation on the refuge. I would encourage you to follow the issues and progress through your local papers and news media.

Our **Friends of Iroquois Annual Membership Meeting is on November 5th at 10 AM.** I hope you will join us at headquarters for the meeting; elections will take place, and a short program will include updates from FINWR and refuge activities. 2016 photo contest winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded. We welcome input from our members and encourage you to attend and share your thoughts with us.

As I complete my second term as President and get ready to turn over the reins to our next president, I want to thank you all for your support and encouragement throughout the last four years. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your president. I have been very fortunate to work with a dedicated, hard-working group of people on the Friend's Board of Directors and with the outstanding staff of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. I also want to thank our membership for your support of FINWR and the refuge. It is so important to support and appreciate our federal land and refuge system. We are fortunate to have Iroquois NWR as a well-managed outdoor resource in our area; I hope you find time to visit soon and maybe even volunteer to help.

May peace and happiness be yours always.

Sandy Mendel

Support the Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. in 2016 Membership Levels:

Individual	\$15.00	Please send contribution to:
Family	\$25.00	Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.
Raccoon	\$50.00	1101 Casey Road
Otter/Red Fox	\$75.00	Basom, NY 14013
Bluebird	\$100.00	
Heron	\$200.00	We can use your volunteer time also!!
Bald Eagle	\$500.00	
Double Eagle	\$1,000.00	Contributions are tax deductible



While we know you will continue to remember us with your generous donations, we encourage you to use Amazon Smile. The Amazon Smile website donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice when you shop securely at <https://smile.amazon.com/>. Every 1/2% counts! That means we receive \$1 for every \$200 spent.

Thank You to our 2016 Contributors !!!

Double Eagle: Mike & Bonnie Woodward, Peter & JoAnne Jackson.

Bald Eagle: Renee Bush & Bruce McCombe, Chuck & Ann Fournier, Paul & Sheila Hess, Sandra & Tom Madejski, William & Susan O'Brian.

Heron: Kofi Fynn-Aikibs, Peter Gold & Athalie Joy, Gordon & Peggy Lamb, Michael Noonan, Theodore Weir, Peter Verroca.

Bluebird: Abaya Family, Anne D. Astmann, Joseph Cassidy, J.Fay & Ruth Cleveland, Ed Fiorino, Bob & Margie Hazen, Margaret Hoff, Mary Hughes, Morgan L. Jones Jr., Rick Kazmierczak, Ed & Jan Kramer, Bill & Lela Lathrop, Frank & Sandra Mendel, Celeste Morien, Richard Parker, Deborah Roberts, John & JoAnn Schlegel, Bob & Kay Schmidt, Betty Smith, Peter & Manya Warn, Wild Birds Unlimited, Stephen C. Wittkowsky, Carl & Phyllis Zenger.

Otter/Red Fox: Ann Bunch, Don & Jean Felton, Karin Johnson, Marcia Nixon, Charlie & Sue Slack.

Raccoon: Julie Baker, Chuck Bartlett, Laura Berry, Judith & James Bunn, Judy Derry, Sven Hammer, Adam Hess, Margaret Hollingsworth, Carol Klinger, Allen & Doralee Lackey, Barbara Meeks, Judy Murray, David O'Donnell, Jennifer Owen-Adsit, Connie Parson, James Punch, Dorothy Rapp, Benjamin Sackmary, Amy Sadkin, Ruth & Steve Shewan, Robert & Joan Weet.

Family: Sue & Hank Beamer, Douglas & Christine Belongnia, Charles & Paula Bigalow, Jean Brundage, Jerry Cataldo, Aaron Chaffee, David & Jeanine Chatt, Mary Culp, Mike & Krys Elam, Jacqueline Fechner, Doug & Helen Freitag, Wayne & Susan Gall, Ellen Gendreau, Kim Goodman, Linda Gramza, Scott & Meaghan Green, Gail Grigg, Carrie Hartz, Mike & Cheryl Helman, Judith Hoffman, Debi Holt, Robert & Lyn Kiehl, Patricia Martin, Scott Meier, Edwin & LuAnne Mileham, Johathan Oakes, Rick Pawlikowski, Thomas Roster, Jim & Pat Sanders, Jeffery & Megan Tocha, Michelle Tow, Richard & Maria Walcsak, Carol Wells, Jeffery & Jocelyn Welton, Henry & Deborah Wright.

Individual: Maxine Barber, Janice Beglinger, Katherine Bilbrough, Lawrence Clare, Kathleen Contrino, Henry H. Cook, Marcia Dirnberger, Robert Ensminger, Owen S. Gray, Christopher Hollister, Gail Johnson, Helen Johnson, Bernie Kester, Irene Kozma, Patty Nagel, Kathy Owen, Gerry Rising, Suzanne Thaine, Ginny Webber, Susan Wren, Carla Wright.

**Friends of Iroquois Wildlife Refuge would also like to thank
The Woodward Family Conservation and Community Fund
for the generous donations.**



Company Spirit on the Refuge

<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/features/companySpiritOnTheRefuge.html>

Across America, employees are going green in a new way. They're clearing trails and planting native flowers at national wildlife refuges, with enthusiastic backing from their supervisors.

When your employer suggests you join a company volunteer day at a national wildlife refuge, you may find yourself:

- Clearing a recreation trail;
- Planting host plants for a rare butterfly;
- Cleaning a beach of marine debris; or
- Sawing and hauling off invasive Scotch broom.

Watch out or you may fall in love with the place – and discover a new passion for wildlife conservation. It's been known to happen.

We encourage you to contact your employer and share this idea; see where it leads. With any luck, it will lead right here to the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Thank you for your support!

NEW at the Flyway Nature Store

**New Pins!
New Ornaments!
New Plush Birds!
(w/authentic Sound)
And... Now
We Have Patches!**



Stop by and check out the new items

**PURCHASE ANY FLEECE ITEM
And receive a FREE WATER BOTTLE !
(USA Made)**



At A Loss For A Gift?

**How About A Gift Membership To: *Friends Of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge*
Memberships Start At Only \$15**



Online tool identifies mystery birds in photos

An online bird photo identifier can recognize 400 of the most commonly encountered birds in the United States and Canada. [Merlin Bird Photo ID](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-id), developed by the Visipedia research project in collaboration with the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**, is available for free at <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-id>

Cavity nesting birds at the Iroquois NWR This Summer

by Carl Zenger

Most of the cavity nesting birds at Iroquois Refuge had a very good season this year. The nesting season is over but there is still work to do to clean out nest boxes, clean and close up martin houses, take down gourds and wash them, repair any nest boxes that need it and make plans for the 2017 nesting season. The winter season is a time to study and analyze the data and findings for the last season and then determine what changes would enhance the bird's success for the next breeding season. We will have more on that in a later issue. In this issue I will try to summarize the results of the 2016 season.

The **Tree Swallows** had a good year. Their totals for this year are as follows: 47 nests, 278 eggs, 240 hatched and 205 fledged. We banded 109 of these chicks and 5 adult tree swallows. We also recaptured 5 adult birds, all of which had been banded by us in previous years. These numbers are about average as house sparrows and house wrens both caused a negative impact on the degree of success. These impacts are a result of less attention to the trail and a lack of manpower to monitor and provide upkeep on the trail. Please see me if you have interest in helping with this next year.

The **Bluebirds** had a very good year. Their totals are as follows: 41 nests (A record for the Refuge), 176 eggs, 149 hatchlings and 110 fledglings. The numbers are good but here again habitat loss and lack of sufficient house sparrow control caused several losses. The weather was not a major impact on the Bluebirds or any of the other cavity nesting birds this year.

The **American Kestrels** did not fare so well. Their totals are as follows: 2 nests, 8 eggs, 5 hatchlings and 5 fledglings. We had the same 2 nests as previous years but one of them had infertile eggs so they never hatched. We have attempted to attract kestrels to nest at other locations on the Refuge but have not been successful in over 5 years. The Kestrel is declining in the North East (The New England States) as its population is down over 85percent since the 1960s according to the American Kestrel Partnership. We need to do more work on this specie to help reverse this trend.

The **Purple Martins** had a record year at the Refuge and adjoining State lands. Unlike the other species the martins are done on an overall basis and include all the sites that are monitored. The reason for this is the parasite study that is being done by Heather Williams, a PHD student at UB. The Purple Martin totals for 2016 are as follows: 134 nests, 666 eggs, 552 hatchlings, 498 fledged. We banded 512 of the hatchlings and three adults that were captured in the nest cavities. The hatchlings were banded with USFWS bands on the right leg and a green band on the left leg. This green band is unique to Iroquois Refuge in New York State. The adults were banded with the USFWS band on their right leg. Two of the birds were ASY (After Second Year) females and the other one was an ASY male. One of the hatchlings we banded 7/15/15 at the Refuge Headquarters was captured on 5/28/16 in Shiloh, Ohio. (Near Mansfield, OH). It was a female bird.

We captured a second year (SY) female with a gold band #N838 on 7/13/16 at the Job Corps Shop 1 site. It was banded in Kirby, NY (Near Lake Erie west of Hamburg) on 7/12/15. We saw another gold band on 6/1/16 but were unable to read the number.

We captured an ASY female on 6/8/16 at the Refuge Headquarter with band number 2531-89274 and no color band. This bird was banded at Irondequoit Bay as a juvenile on 7/20/15.

We identified six birds by the green band numbers that had been banded at one of our sites and either returned to the same site or moved to another one of the sites that we manage. Several other green bands were observed but we could not read the numbers. If you see or hear of any green banded martins please record the date and location and report it to the Refuge.

We had a dead martin returned to us on 8/26/16 that was found dead on 8/25/16 at 2940 Marshall Road, Medina. It had one of our green bands (# B463) so we knew that it was banded 6/30/16 at the Job Corps Shop 2 site. At the time of banding it weighted 50.6 grams and wen analyzed it weighted 32 grams. The analysis (done at Cornell University) determined that it probably died from aspergillosis which is frequently accompanied or preceded by some condition that compromises the immune system. More analysis is being done and will be reported later.

We have been participating in the parasite study being done by **Heather Williams**, a PHD student at UB. She has a lot of data and will share some of the results once she has had some time to analyze it. Some of the data includes: nest temperature and humidity, weights of chicks at banding and a few days later, parasites in the nest box (several hundred nests were collected), chick survival rates, fledging success, comparison of success rates between routine nest changes and no nest changes and other related issues. This has been very interesting to work on and we look forward to hearing more about the analysis of the results.

Our thanks goes to Heather, Celeste Morien, Bob Schmidt, Bill Lathrop, Refuge Interns, YCC participants and many others who have assisted with nest checks and data recording this year.

THE OVERLOOK NEWSLETTER

**Friends of Iroquois
National Wildlife Refuge
1101 Casey Road
Basom, NY 14013**



FRIEND'S NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000

The next Contest deadline is August 31, 2017. Visit our website for more information.

<http://www.FriendsOfIroquoisNWR.org>

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and the
Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
announce their **Seventh Annual Amateur**



PHOTO CONTEST