



Friends of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge  
PO Box 376  
Brookhaven NY 11719

www.FriendsofWertheim.com

## An Update from Dave Shore on the 2006 Osprey Camera Season



Photo from Osprey Cam archive May 29, 2006

The ospreys were reported at the nest on March 10. The camera was installed the following weekend and went live on March 22. The DPOF members that were involved in the setup are Tom and Will Throwe, Tom and Connie Ludlam, Rick Mohlmann (the ladder guy), Anne Meinhold and Dave Shore. While we were at the nest on March 18 installing the camera there were five ospreys circling the area, but none seemed overly upset with the intruders below. The camera was installed and tested in about an hour or so and we left the nest area. It took several days to acquire the new cable modem and set it up, but it was worth the extra delay as we are now using the new higher bandwidth option from Optimum Online, which has allowed us to increase the speed of the video feed. We are now back to what we used when we first started the camera in 2003; the picture is clearer than last year's and even the low speed dial-up connections have improved.

Fascinating information on observations of egg laying, hatching, and family life can be found on the "FriendsofWertheim.org" web site. Simply double click on the picture of the osprey. You will be able to view the live pictures of the osprey nest and have access to all the reported observations viewers have made since the video feed was completed

The osprey camera web site has become very popular with "fans" across the US and Canada, several in Australia and South America and at least one in Cuba! There are many Europeans as well, with a group in England that contribute regularly to the web site observation and message boards. The message and observation boards have become so popular that Tom Throwe had to double the number of allowed concurrent database logins to 64. There are now many osprey cameras in the US and Europe, the DPOF fans have been sharing the locations whenever they find a new one. The message board has become the place for all sorts of discussions and information sharing on a wide range of animal topics. There are links to cameras and people post well researched facts on things such as osprey, eagles, pandas, storks, whales, loons and more.

The observations that have been posted have even caught the attention of an osprey expert, Alan Poole, who has noted that two events at the nest were not documented as osprey behavior! Last year the female adult and the chicks ate a deceased chick and this year a broken egg was partially consumed by the brooding adult. Mr. Poole, in an e-mail to one of our dedicated fans, stated "Your news of cannibalism and egg-eating is new for the Osprey literature."

## A Thank You to Anita

FOW wants to thank Anita Cohen for being the editor of our newsletter for many years. She has guided us through many editions and printings. Due to Anita's dedication, talent, and skill our newsletter has gone from simple photocopies, to professionally prepared and printed newsletters. She has helped all of us with the articles we submit for inclusion in the newsletter and has written many of the articles herself. For all of her help FOW extends a heartfelt

**THANK YOU!!**

## All Spruced Up

Have you noticed how "clean and shiny" the Refuge is recently? If you haven't, now is the time to stop by and see us! We have been the beneficiary of a wealth of volunteer help in the recent months thanks to the Suffolk County Department of Labor work program. "Suffolk Works Employment Program" is a program that offers job training and skill development to disadvantaged adults.

We have had up to 17 volunteers here at any one time working on various Refuge projects. The projects include litter pick up on Smith Rd, Montauk Highway, and Beaverdam Rd, spreading wood chips on the nature trail, weeding, raking leaves, painting the shop buildings (they look great!), power washing the heavy equipment, wash and waxing the Refuge vehicles. To date, we have had 1210 hours of donated time on these projects, an incredible effort that we are so thankful for. We could NOT have done this work ourselves; we owe a huge thank you to each and every person who participated in helping keep Wertheim looking so nice!



## Refuge Welcomes New Staff

We are thrilled to have Alison and Tom Penn join our staff in early June. Alison is going to take a position as the Outdoor Recreational Planner. She has a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Penn State University. She interned as a naturalist at Custer State Park in South Dakota, where she became interested in environmental education. Alison interned in the visitor services division at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, working her way into a permanent position as the Environmental Education Specialist. Alison is originally from New Jersey, and has family on Long Island.

Tom will be joining the biological staff to take the position Florence will be vacating in July. Tom is originally from Roanoke, Virginia and still has family there. He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1995. After graduating, Tom worked as a piping plover intern at Chincoteague refuge, and then became a Seasonal Law Enforcement Officer in Rhode Island, in California, and in Virginia. Since 1997, he has been a Wildlife Biologist at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.



Alison and Tom met at Chincoteague and were married in 2003. They are both very excited to take on new challenges and assignments on Long Island.

**Congratulations to Refuge Staffer Jack Martinez and wife Rachel on the birth of their daughter, Stephanie Louise Hokulani Martinez. She was born on March 23 and weighed 6lbs, 12 oz. Best wishes to the family!**

## Song Bird Report

Anne Meinhold reports that last year was a good one for House Wrens and Bluebirds at the Refuge. The Wrens were very busy with 19 nests and 13 false nests (boxes filled to the top with twigs). Wonder why they do that? The Bluebirds had at least 11 nests (occasionally two nests in one box). Our unwelcome House Sparrows had 11 nests; Tree Swallows with 8 nests, Chickadees had 5, and Tit-

mice had 4. The rest of the approximately 130 boxes contained wasps, evidence of flying squirrels, or were empty.

When walking the white Oak trail, check out the observation blind. In the field you will see a large tree limb, which has been propped up to provide a perch for these birds. With a little luck you may see a Bluebird resting there.

**This Great Horned Owl made herself at home for several days in the Pine Tree over the headquarters building. She and her two owlets were visible during the first week of May. Perhaps she'll return next spring. Photo courtesy John Petraglia.**

### FOW MEMBERSHIP

Please Establish/Renew a one-year membership for:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual membership-\$10.00/Family membership-\$15.00

If enrolling more than one person. Please provide information for each person. Send check, payable to Friends of Wertheim NWR to: PO box 376, Brookhaven, NY,11719

## Ospreys Always on our Minds

As the Wertheim Refuge continues to actively manage property for wildlife protection and habitat for migratory birds Refuge staff recently, in cooperation with Suffolk County Department of Public Works - Vector Control, Ducks Unlimited and other partners, conducted a wetland enhancement project on 80 acres of wetlands at the refuge. The goal of the project was to eliminate the need to apply larval pesticides for mosquito control while enhancing the quality of the marsh for wildlife and reducing the amount of the invasive Phragmites.

As the project progressed, Suffolk County Principal Environmental Ana-

lyst Tom Iwanejko noticed an unutilized osprey pole in the project area. In consultation with Wertheim Biologist Florence James and avid birder Jerry



Franklin, a Vector Control Aide, it was agreed that the osprey nesting platform was poorly placed within the forest canopy. Permission was granted to reposition the platform to a more suitable location along the marsh using Vector Control's specially designed low ground pressure equipment. It is hoped that as osprey numbers continue to rebound, thanks to people like Dennis Puleston, that this nesting platform (and hopefully other new platforms in the future) will be fully utilized by these magnificent birds of prey. A special thanks goes to the Vector Control equipment operators who gingerly positioned the platform in its new location: Robert Kannengieser and Ed Soto.

## FOW Executive Board Tour the Wetland Enhancement Project

The FOW Executive Board was provided with an informative tour of the demonstration project at the refuge. Deborah Long, Refuge Manager and Alex Chmielewski, Refuge Wildlife Biologist explained the work that had been completed on plans for additional activities to



enhance the wetlands. Mosquito larva-eating fish are returning and the Board members were treated to marvelous views of long legged water shore birds, which have returned after a long absence. In the photograph you may see the portable bridge that Alex thoughtfully brought along.

## Nature Printing Workshops at the Refuge

Kate Madsen and Helen Geraghty, both members of the FOW board of directors, will be conducting 4 exciting Nature Printing workshops at the refuge in June and July. Since the workshops have to be limited to 15 you will need to register your interest in participating with Anne Meinhold at [cbmeinhold@optonline.net](mailto:cbmeinhold@optonline.net) or call her at 286-8496.

**Car Printing.** Sunday, June 18, 10 to 12. To print you need pressure and what could exert more pressure than a car? For weeks Kate and Helen have been soaking old paper towels (and their rolls) egg cartons, and other bits of non-waxy, not-oily cardboard to make mush. We'll take some found treasure, like an abandoned bird's nest, put it on top of the mush, put absorbent paper on both sides, surround them with two sheets of plywood and start the engine. The results will be a three dimensional artwork that you can paint when it's dry. Also at this workshop bring some blank stationery to decorate with plant printings. (The found treasures will be from our own backyards, not the Refuge.)

**Children's Workshop.** Sunday, July 9, 10 to 12. Ages five and up. We'll have an array of material so that we can cook up projects of varying degrees of difficulty. Everybody will go home with something to hang on the wall. Please make sure the kids are wearing smocks or old clothes. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Printing on Cloth.** Sunday, July 23, 10 to 12. The Grand Finale! You don't have to print on a tee shirt. You can print on a tablecloth, a scarf, napkins, or curtains, so long as the material is cotton or silk. (Synthetics are hard to print on.) Wash it the day before to get out the sizing. You'll be astonished at how good your results are.



Friends of

# Wertheim

National Wildlife Refuge

## Congressional Staff visits the Refuge

Sue McMahon, Deputy Chief of Refuges for Region 5 and Refuge staff met with Congressional delegation representatives from Senator Schumer and Clinton's office at Wertheim April 18<sup>th</sup> Refuge Manager Deborah Long introduced herself as the new manager for the Long Island National

Wildlife Refuge Complex. The refuge staff then provided a tour highlighting work on the Long Island refuges and discussed key elements of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment. Following the tour, Deputy Refuges Chief Sue McMahon discussed the manage-

ment of refuges in the northeast in a declining budget environment. The Friends of Wertheim provided a wonderful lunch for the meeting, which is probably why Matt Cohen, Senator Schumer's aide, sent a big thank you so quickly!

Friends of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the enduring protection, management and appreciation of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and its environs.

### Executive Board

Claire Goad President  
Linda Cox 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Jon Pokorny 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Consuelo Ludlum Treasurer  
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Kate Madsen  
Faith McCutcheon  
James McGowan  
Anne Meinhold  
Kathleen O'Connor  
John Petraglia

### Ex-Officio Member

Deborah Long  
Refuge Manager,  
Long Island NWR Complex

### Honorary Board

Art Cooley  
Betty Puleston  
Dennis Puleston (1905-2001)

### Webmaster

John Petraglia

### Newsletter

Charles Meinhold  
Catherine Meinhold

The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to preserve a national network of lands and waters for the conservation and management of fish, wildlife and plant resources of the United States for the benefit of present and future generations.

## Representatives of The NWRS Meet with Congressman Bishop

The following day, April 19, Refuge Manager Deborah Long and Deputy Chief Sue McMahon provided a similar presentation to Congressman Bishop in his office in Coram. Congressman Bishop stated that he

was well aware of all the effort the Friends of Wertheim has put into securing a new visitor center and headquarters building - He is working hard to put the vision into action and expressed his support for

more environmental education opportunities at the Wertheim and Morton national wildlife refuges.

**The Long Island National Wildlife Refuge presents their Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (CCP/ EA) to the public on June 19, 2006. To learn more about the plan we hope you will attend one of our scheduled meetings or contact:**

Debbie Long, Refuge Manager  
Long Island NWR Complex  
360 Smith Road, P. O. Box 21  
Shirley, NY 11967-0021  
Phone: 631/286 0485

Email: [longislandrefuges@fws.gov](mailto:longislandrefuges@fws.gov)

**All meetings will be held from 6 - 9 pm (Open House 6 - 7 pm; Public Meeting 7 pm)**

### Monday, June 26, 2006

Dowling College (Brookhaven Campus)  
Room A209, 1300 William Floyd Parkway  
Shirley, NY

### Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Doubleday Babcock Senior Center  
45 East Main Street  
Oyster Bay, NY

### Wednesday, June 28, 2006

784 Noyak Road (Morton NWR Contact Station)  
Sag Harbor, NY