



Newsletter No. 34

Winter 2016

2016 Erie National Wildlife Refuge Trash to Treasure Contest

This year you can get a head start on our Annual Trash to Treasure Contest. Associated with the ENWR's Summer Fest the contest is usually not advertised until Spring but we wanted to get the information out there early for the 2016 contest. We are hoping to receive more than ever entries this year so spread the word.

The details are basically the same as last year. 1st place in each division, Age 17+, Age 13 – 16, Age 9 – 12, and Age 8 & Under, wins a cash prize. Entries must be submitted by June 15, 2016 and the winners will be announced June 25th at Summer Fest.

The rules are fairly simple: The major component of each entry should be something previously used that would normally be thrown away or recycled after they are used. Entries must have been created within the dates: 06/16/2015 - 06/15/2016.

Judging criteria may include originality and creativity; durability, suitability to purpose, and quality of craftsmanship; artistic merit; and "How much did it save the planet?". Sorry the judges' decision is final.

Entries will be on display at Summer Fest and then at the refuge until the week of July 4th.

Entries must be turned in to the Erie National Wildlife Refuge, 11296 Wood Duck Lane, Guys Mills, PA 16327. Call (814) 789-3585 if you have questions. Entry form included with this newsletter.

Sponsored by the Friends of ENWR.

ENWR Spring Clean Up Day

Spring is here and it's time to think about spring cleaning. Spring Clean Up Day on the Erie National Wildlife Refuge that is! The Clean Up date is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, 2016. Celebrate Earth Day early this year by cleaning up the Refuge! We will be meeting at 1:00pm at the ENWR Visitor's Center in Guys Mills.

The Friends group will reschedule if the weather is inclement. If you can't attend with us, look up other clean-up opportunities on <http://www.keeppabeautiful.org/>.

This event is open to adults and families alike! Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Programs At The Erie National Wildlife Refuge

There are two educational programs coming to the ENWR this Winter and Spring. Judy Acker, Outreach Project Coordinator for Audubon Pennsylvania will be our presenter for these programs. Both programs will be held at the ENWR Headquarters Building, 11296 Wood Duck Lane, Guys Mills.

History of the French Creek Watershed - February 26

A program on the "History of the French Creek Watershed" will be presented at the Visitors Center of the Erie National Wildlife Refuge on Friday, February 26 at 6:30 PM. Judy's talk will begin with glacial impacts on the watershed through the Native American and French influence to the Spa Era and the unique role freshwater mussels played within the French Creek watershed! Come find out how our unique and varied local history helped shape life in the French Creek Valley!

For more information please call the refuge office at 814-789-3585.

Hummingbirds @ Home - April 15

Judy will introduce participants to National Audubon's fun new monitoring program called "Hummingbirds at Home" which utilizes an app on your smart phone to report hummingbird sightings and nectar sources. Acker will then explore interesting and fun facts about our local hummingbirds. Her talk will include tips for attracting Hummingbirds to your yard--including what native plants they prefer--as well as information about feeders, food and ways to ensure your yard is a safe and nutritious haven for hummingbirds.

A hummingbird feeder craft will follow the talk for those interested in making a feeder to take home. Preregistration is required so we can get enough supplies for the feeder craft. Call the refuge office at 814-789-3585.

New Officers Elected For Friends of ENWR

At the latest Board of Directors meeting the officers for 2016 were elected. Most will be new to their positions this year. Michael Vargo was elected to be our new President; Autumn White will be our new Secretary; Vicki Pratt is our new Treasurer; and Ronald Leberman will remain as Vice President.

The remaining members of your board are Lisa Helmbreck, Rich Eakin, Doug Copeland, Linda Anderson, Ken Pratt, and Kathleen Palmer.

Remember the Board of Directors meeting is open to all members or anyone else that is interested. Meetings are usually held the third Monday of the month but sometimes they need to be moved to the fourth if it falls on a government holiday. Check the date on our website at www.friendsofenwr.org. Your input is always welcome.

New App Helps Sort Millions of Trail Camera Images

Remote trail cameras capture millions of images of ocelots, bighorn sheep, elk, pronghorn, birds and other wildlife sparring, visiting water, foraging, marking territory and more within the Refuge System. For those images to be useful for scientific purposes, they must be sorted and labeled.

There's an app for that.

It's called Moniker, and it's available free at the App Store for iPhone and iPad users.

At New Mexico's Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge alone, 36 cameras amassed 2.7 million images in four years. Typically, sorting that mountain of imagery for scientific analysis means enlisting family, friends, volunteers and neighbors. Meanwhile, more cameras are positioned and the imagery backlog mushrooms.

The Moniker app allows anyone, anywhere to sort camera-trap imagery. The crowd-sourcing approach helps manage the imagery backlog, while the app helps generate public appreciation of America's wildlife. In return, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service obtains sorted images useful for addressing management and conservation priorities.

The app operates by downloading 15 still (not video) images at a time to an iPhone or iPad. The app pulls up each image individually, and the user classifies the species by using a scrolling wheel. The user then identifies the number of individual animals. Because most images contain one or two individuals, the app has buttons for these. Otherwise, the number of individuals is keyed in. If, something, say blowing grass, triggers the camera without capturing a wildlife species, the code "ghost" is used.

Ultimately, this process sorts the images and stores them on a remote server, where they are ready for project use. To ensure data quality, each image is sorted multiple times and majority opinion prevails. The final sort is subsampled and checked for accuracy before analysis.

To try the app, go to the App Store on your iPhone (model 4, OS version 8.4.1 or newer) and iPad (model 2 or newer) and search for "Moniker." Moniker may not immediately pop up in the suggestions, so hit the Search tab again and it will. For more information on how the app can be used for scientific analyses, contact Gran Harris, chief of biological services for the Southwest Region, at Grant_Harris@fws.gov.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service remote trail cameras capture a steady stream of images of wildlife, such as this one of a coyote chasing pronghorn at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. A new crowd-sourcing app helps to sift through and label the images.

Endangered Species Youth Art Contest

Students in grades K-12 can submit their art in the 2016 Saving Endangered Species Youth Art Contest no later than March 1. The contest encourages youngsters to learn about the plight of endangered wildlife and the importance of environmental conservation.

Organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Coalition, Association of Zoos and Aquariums and International Child Art Foundation, the contest promotes national awareness of the importance of saving endangered species while recognizing conservation initiatives across the country.

Contest winners will be chosen by a panel of artists, photographers and conservationists: Wyland, renowned marine life artist; Jack Hanna, host of Jack Hanna's Into the Wild; David Littschwager, freelance photographer and regular contributor to National Geographic magazine; Susan Middletown, a photographer who has collaborated with Littschwager and whose own work has been published in four books; and Alice Tangerini, botanical illustrator for the Smithsonian Institution.

For more information, including entry categories, judging criteria and the entry form, visit <http://www.endangered.org/campaigns/endangered-species-day/>

Friends of ENWR
c/o Erie National Wildlife Refuge
11296 Wood Duck Lane
Guys Mills, PA 16327