The Marsh Wren

SINCE 1976 | THE FRIENDS OF DYKE MARSH | SUMMER 2017

FODM Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, at 7:30 p.m., Huntley Meadows Park, Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22306. Phone 703 768-2525. Free to all.

Calendar of Events

October 10, - Alexandria Renew breakfast, see details p. 7.
October 21, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Test water quality into marsh.
November 15, 7:30 p.m. - FODM Fall Quarterly Meeting with lecture on ecology and challenges of Hunting Creek.

CONTENTS

Wetland and Underwater Vegetation

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on September 13 at Huntley Meadows Park to hear Dr. Nancy Rybicki speak on "Aquatic Macrophyte Abundance and Diversity" in the freshwater, tidal Potomac River. She will discuss native and non-native plant trends, including Potomac River submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) species abundance during a time interval when water quality improved and describe investigations into the exotic, floating, aquatic water chestnut (*Trapa spp.*) in the Potomac River watershed.

Underwater grasses are an indicator of the river's health. The Potomac River bottom was bare mud in the 1960s in many places, but submerged aquatic vegetation has been rebounding in recent years. Some beds have doubled in size since 1990. Cleanup efforts have reduced algae and more light encourages more underwater plant growth. In addition to being valuable in and of themselves, submerged aquatic plants trap sediments and provide shelter for fish and other wildlife, food for waterfowl and oxygen in the water. A 2017 aerial survey, conducted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, found that underwater grasses increased eight percent between 2015 and 2016.

Boat reflection and Stargrass (*Heteranthera*) with milfoil (*Myriophyllum*). Photo: Nancy Rybicki, U.S. Geol. Survey

Dr. Rybicki, an aquatic plant biologist and hydrologist, is in the National Research Program (NRP) of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Water Re-

MEETING *(continued on page 2)*

Secretive Marsh Birds

On February 26, 2017, at FODM's winter meeting, Patrice Neilsen discussed her research on secretive bird species of the Washington, D.C., region. She studied the king rail, Virginia rail, sora, least bittern and American bittern in surveys at 51 points in 25 marshes in 2013, 2014 and 2015. She surveyed at sunrise or sunset three times a year. She found no Virginia rails, sora or American bittern, but found least bitterns and king rails in several locations.

Secretive marsh birds are usually well camouflaged and not active nor easy to see, she explained. The birds' calls are quiet and infrequent. Very little is known about secretive marsh birds in urban or small remnant wetlands.

Least Bitterns were found in several locations preferring taller vegetation. Photo by Ed Eder

Ms. Neilsen sought to answer two

SECRETIVE BIRDS *(continued on page 2)*

FODMer, an Interior Appointee

Congratulations to FODM member Scott J. Cameron who was appointed as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Scott J. Cameron
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOI

With 38 years of experience inside and around the federal government, he moved to this position from President Donald Trump's transition team. Scott has worked in both houses of Congress, in the Executive Office of the President and as a career civil servant and political appointee in two administrations, including twice in the Office of the Secretary of a cabinet department.

He also served as California's Washington representative, as a corporate government relations executive and as an executive in non-profit organizations. In November 2015, he was elected as a director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, serving Fairfax County. In 2014, Scott founded the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition, a non-profit organization that educates the public and government on the economic, ecological and public health impacts of invasive species. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

Scott began his career as a Presidential Management Intern in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Dartmouth College and a Masters in Business Administration from Cornell University. He lives in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County and has participated in many FODM events. Congratulations, Scott!

SECRETIVE BIRDS *(continued from page 1)*

Virginia Rail. Photo: E. Eder

questions: (1) Can these birds use small, urban wetlands? (2) What characteristics make these wetlands attractive to secretive marsh birds?

Here are a few highlights of her talk:

- All rail species and American bittern populations are in decline.
- Least bitterns and king rails are breeding in the area. They use both natural and restored marshes.
- Both least bittern and king rail avoid woody vegetation.
- Persistent vegetation, like dry cattails that overwinter, are attractive for nesting and shelter.
- King rails prefer a more diverse marsh to a monoculture.
- Taller vegetation is important for least bitterns.
- Once these birds choose an area, they tend to stay close by, within several hundred meters.

MEETING *(continued from page 1)*

sources Division. She has conducted studies to recognize and understand processes that affect estuarine, riverine, floodplain and wetland ecosystems.

This program is cosponsored by the Potomac Riverkeeper, Friends of Theodore Roosevelt Island, the Mattawoman Watershed Society, the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society and Earth Sangha. If you use a GPS device to find the park, do not use the park's name. Enter the park's address, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria, Virginia 22306.

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Visit our website at
www.fodm.org
or on **Facebook.com**

Board members can receive email at info@fodm.org. *The Marsh Wren* is a quarterly publication of the Friends of Dyke Marsh, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Letters and submissions to *The Marsh Wren* are welcome. Send them to the address at left. Special thanks to Duncan Hobart for managing our website (www.fodm.org).

President's Message

Glenda C. Booth, President, Friends of Dyke Marsh

Toward Healthier Habitat

The Haul Road trail is the only way many visitors experience the preserve. Unfortunately, the Haul Road was built with fill and both sides are very disturbed and re-disturbed, overrun with non-native plants like porcelain berry, English ivy, multiflora rose and Japanese honeysuckle.

Generally, non-native plants are introduced both intentionally and accidentally into an area far from their native habitat and they often cause ecological and economic harm. Invasive plants have few controls or lack natural controls such an insects and disease to keep them in balance. Many invasives can out-compete native plants, form a monoculture, reduce biodiversity and destroy native habitats. In Dyke Marsh, plants like porcelain berry smother valuable native plants.

Vines of the invasive porcelain berry smother valuable native habitat. Photo by Glenda Booth

Native plants, on the other hand, evolve over thousands of years with other species and provide habitat and food for wildlife with which they co-evolved. For example, spicebush swallowtail butterflies (*Papilio troilus*) lay eggs exclusively on plants in the *Lauraceae* family, like spice bush (*Lindera bezoin*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidium*) and tulip tree (*Lirodendron tulipfera*). Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) caterpillars appear to feed exclusively on milkweed plants in the genus *Asclepias* and butterflies need these plants to lay their eggs. Invasive plants typically do not provide this type of support for insects, birds and other wildlife.

Working with the Park Service, FODM hopes to create a demonstration area up to an acre along the Haul Road to better control invasive plants and support native plants. This is a major, expensive and long-term undertaking, but we believe the area should have more ecological integrity. After all, Congress intended that Dyke Marsh be a nature preserve, not an infestation of invasives. We hope that this project can also educate the public and officials about the value of native plants and the need for restoration. More aggressively controlling invasives could improve visitors' outdoor experiences as well. If you would like to help, please email me.

Stopping Sediment Pollution

Thanks to Fairfax County, Dyke Marsh West will hopefully not receive as much sediment now as it has in recent years. FODM thanks the county for completing a major project to repair a failing stormwater outfall in Mount Vernon District Park. In 2014, FODMers observed the marsh turning orange during storms. We contacted county officials who identified a massive, eroding gully 20 feet deep, over 50 feet wide and 200 feet long that was sending sediment downstream during storms.

The failing outfall in Mount Vernon District Park, 2014, gouged out streambanks. Photo by Glenda Booth

The completed restoration has riprap, plunge pools and native plants and trees. Photo by Glenda Booth

The project attempts to stabilize streambanks and slow the runoff's velocity. It includes riprap, plunge pools, logs and other approaches to slow the water's flow. The county has planted native trees, grasses and plants to restore the area disturbed by construction.

At our urging, the county prioritized the project, started construction in August 2016 and completed it in April 2017. To learn more about the project, visit the Fairfax County website at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/projects/quander_road.htm.

Nature's "Shows"

One fan reported a firefly "explosion" in the marsh in late June, writing, "It is like being in the middle of the Milky Way." FODMers captured many special moments in photos, including a female yellow warbler stripping nesting material from a vine and later sitting on her cup nest and least bitterns arriving and hiding in the vegetation (Ed Eder). One day, 200 cedar waxwings roosted on the Haul Road. Surveyors identified nine butterfly species and eleven dragonflies on June 20, including 125 big bluets, 26 black saddlebags, 50 Needham's skimmers and one wandering glider. Check out our website and Facebook.com.

Dyke Marsh is included as a Fairfax County bird watching destination in the August issue of *Birdwatching* magazine.

Glenda C. Booth

Glenda C. Booth is the president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh and active in conservation issues in Virginia.

The Results of the 2016 Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey

BY LARRY CARTWRIGHT, BBS Survey Coordinator

The 2016 Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey was conducted between Saturday, May 28 and Monday, July 4, but any data collected outside of this period that confirmed a breeding species was entered into the database. This permitted us to filter out most migrants that do not use the marsh or surrounding habitat to breed. I also included information provided from the Sunday morning walks and reliable individuals to supplement data reported by the survey teams. The survey tract encompasses the Belle Haven picnic area, the marina, the open marsh, that portion of the Big Gut known as the West Marsh that extends from the George Washington Memorial Parkway west to River Towers, the Potomac River from the shoreline to the channel, and the surrounding woodland from the mouth of Hunting Creek to south of Morningside Lane.

The Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey is undertaken as part of a continuing biological inventory of the tidal wetlands. Our methodology uses behavioral criteria to determine the breeding status of each species that is recorded in the survey tract. Species are placed into one of four categories: confirmed breeder, probable breeder, possible breeder, and present. Volunteer teams in 2016 collectively reported 86 species at Dyke Marsh between May 28 and July 4. The 2016 list contains 44 confirmed breeding species, 12 probable breeders, and 16 possible breeders. The remaining 14 species were present, but either were not in suitable breeding habitat, were colonial breeding waterbird species not using a rookery inside the survey tract, or out of range.

Marsh Wrens failed to breed at Dyke Marsh for the second consecutive year. Possibly three males briefly established territories north of the Haul Road peninsula, that portion of the path from the dogleg to the boardwalk, but they appeared to abandon the effort by the middle of June. Least Bitterns had better success. As in 2015, Least Bitterns concentrated breeding efforts in the marsh vegetation surrounding Haul Road, in the tributaries of the Little Gut, and the upper portion of the Big Gut. However, only one or two birds were reported by each survey team in 2016 compared to 2015 when survey teams submitted weekly reports of three to five birds.

An adult Eastern Phoebe feeds five young nestlings at the nest under the bridge near River Towers. Photo by Ed Eder

I am unable to determine whether the reduction in Least Bittern numbers reflects an actual decline of Least Bitterns between 2015 and 2016 or if other factors were involved. We do know that a minimum of one Least Bittern breeding pair successfully raised young in 2016. The retraction of the Least Bittern from the lower portion of the Big Gut can be attributed to the heavy erosion occurring there. The complete disappearance of the Marsh Wren as a breeder around the Haul Road in 2015 may be part of a regional decline while erosion perhaps played a contributing factor in the elimination of the species as a breeder in the Big Gut almost a decade ago. Reliable reporters who frequent regional wetlands in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia have noted the decline and disappearance of Marsh Wrens in areas the birds used to inhabit.

Least Bittern perched in an Ash tree near the boardwalk in Dyke Marsh. Photo by Ed Eder

The usual contingent of migratory songbirds arrived at Dyke Marsh beginning in April and had what seemed to be a particularly successful year. There was a surprisingly high concentration of breeding activity between the Haul Road dogleg and the boardwalk. Volunteers documented five Orchard Oriole nests, two Baltimore Oriole nests, three Yellow Warbler nests, three Eastern Kingbird nests, one Warbling Vireo nest, and several Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests along this stretch of the Haul Road. Survey team reports indicated that over half these nests, including all three Yellow Warbler nests, produced young. One Baltimore Oriole breeding pair nesting in a Sycamore near the short overlook path to the Little Gut was particularly lucky. On May 21 an observer noted crows attempting to ransack the nest while the orioles made a seemingly unsuccessful effort to protect it., but the orioles returned within a day, and the nest owners went on to produce healthy fledglings from this effort. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were exceptionally lucky in producing young on the Haul Road peninsula except for one breeding pair that was tending to a Brown-headed Cowbird. This one documented case of brood parasitism seemed to be the exception as healthy young Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were easy to find as the breeding season progressed.

A male Orchard Oriole in a sycamore tree brought a mayfly, a spider and worms to the nestlings. Photo by Ed Eder

The significant Pumpkin Ash die off may be having at least a temporarily beneficial impact on some cavity nesting species such as woodpeckers. For example, various reports show a larger presence of Hairy Woodpeckers than observed in most previous years. Perhaps the number of dead trees in the wooded area has expanded feeding and breeding

opportunities for the Hairy Woodpecker and similar species that use cavities.

I found the presence of Eastern Bluebirds at two locations in the south marsh during 2016 quite interesting and wonder if it is also possibly related to the increased availability of nest cavities. Eastern Bluebirds have not been recorded as breeders in the 23 years that I have compiled the Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey. Yet a bird found at the Big Gut Bridge just north of Tulane Drive during Memorial Day weekend was still singing at this location on June 27, exactly a month later. The habitat at the Big Gut Bridge consists of trees with many snags for nesting, but limited feeding habitat for a ground foraging species like Eastern Bluebird, except for the strip of short grass lining the George Washington Memorial Parkway. However, a report of a bluebird investigating a potential nest cavity at the southernmost point of Dyke Marsh suggests that this species might eventually be added to the list of Dyke Marsh breeding avifauna.

My speculation about the expansion of nesting opportunities for some species that breed in cavities possibly contradicts a statement I made in my 2015 report concerning a likely decline in available cavities for Prothonotary Warblers, another Dyke Marsh breeder. Perhaps there really is no contradiction. Prothonotary Warblers have more selective nesting requirements than other cavity nesters. We generally find Prothonotary Warbler nest cavities at Dyke Marsh no higher than eye level in a snag near or over open water. Many of these snags are located along the banks of the south marsh and Big Gut, and seem to be falling over with increasing rapidity as erosion accelerates. It should not be surprising considering their habitat requirements that past surveys show Prothonotary Warbler males occupying territories almost exclusively in the south marsh and Big Gut. In 2015, I estimate that up to nine Prothonotary Warblers established territories from the Big Gut Bridge to the southern tip of Dyke Marsh just below Morningside Lane. No males were recorded in the north half of Dyke Marsh during the height of the 2015 breeding season.

Purple Martin searches for nesting cavity under piling caps on the dock. Photo by Ed Eder

Adult Tree Swallow feeding an insect to one of its ten fledged youngsters. Photo by Ed Eder

A different situation emerged in 2016. Volunteers documented at the beginning of the survey up to three singing Prothonotary Warbler males along the Haul Road and adjacent Coconut (previously referred to as Cormorant) Island just east of the boardwalk. It soon became clear that the birds were there not as a fluke, but had established territory. There also appeared to be a corresponding decline of territorial males in the southern half of the marsh. I have no ready explanation for this phenomenon, except to note that the wooded area around the Haul Road seemed to be wetter than in previous years and perhaps this provided the conditions suitable for breeding. Whatever the case, on June 22, a male that multiple surveyors reported at or near the entrance of Haul Road since early June, was documented carrying food toward the marina, presumably to hungry nestlings.

Ospreys constructed nine nests in the survey tract during 2016 and volunteers documented seven of these containing young. The fate of the female Osprey occupying the platform nest at Porto Vecchio illustrates the dangers that all breeding birds potentially face. It seems that during nest building, the birds brought sticks to the nest that contained

SURVEY *(continued on page 6)*

The 2016 Breeding Bird Survey Results

Confirmed - 44 Species: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Least Bittern, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, House Sparrow, House Finch, Prothonotary Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole.

Probable - 12 Species: Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Marsh Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, American Goldfinch, Northern Parula, Song Sparrow, Indigo Bunting.

Possible - 16 Species: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Willow Flycatcher, House Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler.

Present - 14 Species: Tundra Swan, Lesser Scaup, Rock Pigeon, Whimbrel, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Bank Swallow.

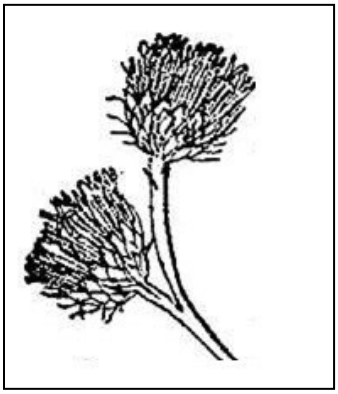
Meet the Plants of Dyke Marsh — New York Ironweed

BY PATRICIA P. SALAMONE

The rich purple flowerheads of New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) provide a gorgeous contrast to the reds, oranges, and yellows of early fall foliage.

New York ironweed is a tall herbaceous perennial, growing 3-8 feet tall. It blooms from late summer to early fall (July to September or October).

The plant is native to much of the eastern US. It likes to grow in low wet areas of woods and fields, streambanks, moist meadows, and marshes. Its National Wetland Indicator Status is FACW (facultative wetland), meaning it is usually found in wetlands but is occasionally found in uplands.



Line drawing of flowerhead showing overlapping bracts: Detail from image in USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 3: 351.

The deep reddish-purple flowers are borne in open clusters at the ends of the stem branches. The flowers are composites but have no ray flowers, only disk flowers. The base of each flowerhead is covered by a whorl of overlapping bracts, similar to those of a thistle. (A bract is a modified or specialized leaf.) The bracts are oval at their base and narrow to a hairlike tip. Looked at close-up, the layered bracts make the flowerhead resemble a tiny artichoke. The flowers mature into very attractive tawny-colored seed clusters.

New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*). Photograph by Stephanie Brundage, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

The leaves (3 to 8 inches long) are dark green and are lance-shaped with finely toothed edges.

The flowers attract butterflies, including the eastern tiger swallowtail, and, according to the Pollinator Program at The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the plant has special value to native bees. The seeds are eaten by birds.

The genus name, *Vernonia*, honors the British botanist William Vernon, who collected plants in Maryland in 1698. The specific epithet *noveboracensis* means "from New York," in a roundabout but very learned way. Literally, the name means "from New Eboracum"; Eboracum was a Roman fort and city in the north of England that evolved over time into the city of York. Various explanations are given for the common name, all suggesting something iron-like about the plant either in strength (its stems are tough and persist into the winter) or color (rusty color of the fading flowers or the seeds).

The Virginia Native Plant Society named New York ironweed its "Wildflower of the Year" in 1995. The VNPS write-up describes it as "A plant of great beauty." I agree.

SURVEY *(continued from page 5)*

fishing line filament. Unfortunately, the female reportedly became entangled in the filament on April 18 and died before she could be rescued. However, the remaining filament was removed, and the male amazingly secured another female to incubate the four eggs now in the nest. And yes, this was one of the seven successful Osprey nests that produced healthy youngsters. The popular marina nest produced two nestlings, one of which died soon after hatching, while the other went on to fledge prior to independence Day.

Finally, The Tulane Drive Bald Eagle nest produced two fledged young in 2016. Although all three resident owl species were present during the 2016 survey, the best we could find was a pair of Barred Owls. There were no fledged owl young this year.

The Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey would not be possible except for the effort and dedication of the participating citizen-scientists that conduct the surveys: David Arnold, Eldon Boes, Glenda Booth, Ed Eder, Myriam Eder, Sandy Farkas, Kurt Gaskill, Susan Haskew, Gerry Hawkins, Lori Keeler, Elizabeth Ketz-Robinson, Claire Kluskens, Ginny McNair, Larry Meade, Roger Miller, Nick Nichols, Marc Ribaudo, Rich Rieger, Don Robinson, Laura Sebastianelli, Phil Silas, Ned Stone, Jessie Strother, Sherman Suter, Marcus Wohler and Margaret Wohler.

The Tulane Drive Bald Eagle nest produced two fledged young. Photo by Ed Eder

Restoration Update

BY BRENT STEURY Natural Resources Program Manager, National Park Service

On May 21, 2017, the George Washington Memorial Parkway submitted a joint permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, for the restoration and stabilization of the wetlands at Dyke Marsh. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District is currently at 95 percent with the design plans for the restoration.

We understand that the Fairfax County Wetlands Board will hold a hearing on the GW Parkway/National Park Service's application for a permit to restore Dyke Marsh soon. Check our website at www.fodm.org for details on the date and time as they become final.

Take Away Your Dog Poop

All too often FODMers find dog poop along the Haul Road, some in bags, some not. Washington Post columnist John Kelly on March 8, 2017, cited a Capitol Hill resident who found dog poop bags on fences, walls and curbs. "This is not cleaning up your dog's poop, people," Kelly wrote. "This is making your dog's poop somebody else's problem." He continued, "People, there is no magical Poop Fairy who comes along to make your poop bags disappear. She does not turn them into pine cones. You are responsible for your dog and everything it produces, and you must bring both the pooch and its poop back home with you."

Welcome New FODM Members

We welcome our **new members** Rebecca Ames, Deborah Bombard, Erica Bovenzi, Hillary Clawson, John Haubert, Nancy Herrman, Seth R. Honig, Beverly Keane, Eileen Malone, Nicholas Martin, Karen Rackley, Nick Rosenbach, CPT Ryan H. Steptoe and Elizabeth Williams.

U.S. Park Police, Emergency Number: 202-610-7500

Calendar of Events

October 10 - Cleaning Up the Chesapeake Bay. FODM is co-sponsoring a breakfast at Alexandria Renew (see website at www.alexrenew.com) to support Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts, joining forces with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Virginia Conservation Network. To RSVP (required) and get more details, contact Ann Jurczyk at ajurczyk@cbf.org.

October 21, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. - How are Area Streams' Health? Help us test the quality of water flowing into Dyke Marsh. You don't need technical expertise. Contact Glenda Booth at gbooth123@aol.com. to volunteer.

November 15, 7:30 p.m. - The Health of Hunting Creek; Its Impact on Dyke Marsh. Dr. Kim de Mutsert, will give a presentation on the ecology and challenges of Hunting Creek.

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Bird walks are held Sunday mornings, all seasons. Meet at 8 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Belle Haven picnic area. Walks are led by experienced birders and all are welcome to join us.

FODM Membership - Dues and Contributions

Support the Friends of Dyke Marsh by becoming a member or renewing your membership. Benefits include the Friends' quarterly publication, *The Marsh Wren*; quarterly membership meetings with knowledgeable speakers; Sunday morning bird walks and notification of activities in and around the marsh. Most importantly, your membership lends your voice in support of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve and our efforts to advocate for full restoration of the marsh. Just click on the "Join" or "Donate" button on our membership page at www.fodm.org to make your tax-deductible contribution by credit card or from your bank account securely through PayPal. For help, info@fodm.org. If you prefer, you can send a check, payable to FODM, P.O. Box 7183, Alexandria, Virginia 22307. The annual dues are $15.00 per household, $250.00 for life membership for an individual. You will receive a notice by mail or by email when your renewal is due. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs. Thank you for your support of FODM.

DUES AMOUNT..…..… $ _____
ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION..…….. $ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED..……. $ _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY_____ STATE ____ ZIP_____
TELEPHONE NUMBER _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please address any questions or comments about *The Marsh Wren* to Dorothy McManus and about membership to Bob Veltkamp. You may contact them by mail at FODM, P.O. Box 7183, Alexandria, Virginia 22307 -7183, by telephone or by email (see page 2).

More Native Plants and Trees Help Restore Dyke Marsh

In April and May 31, 2017 FODMers planted around 70 native shrubs and trees along the Haul Road trail east of the "dogleg" turn along the trail, led by NPS staffers Melissa Westbrook and Colin Davis. See the table for the species planted.

NPS horticulturalist Melissa Westbrook explained that most of the plants are facultative, which means they are plants that grow in wetlands but can survive in non-wetlands. These native plants can provide valuable habitat for native insects, birds and other critters.

The plants have blue plastic tags or flags. FODM invites everyone to help the plants survive and, for example, to stay on the dirt trail and keep pets on a leash and on the trail.

Thank you, National Park Service, and thank you to all of the enthusiastic volunteers: Eldon Boes, Glenda Booth, Larry Cartwright, Greg Crider, Trudi Hahn, Duncan Hobart, Patty McCarthy, Dorothy McManus, Ann Sibold, Robert Smith, Ned Stone and Jessie Strother and Toby Torla.

Eldon Boes and Trudi Hahn prepared the ground for several shrubs and trees, as Melissa Westbrook advised.

NPSer Colin Davis removed some non-native autumn olives as volunteers put in new shrubs and plants.

Native Shrubs and Trees Planted on Haul Road

Eastern red cedar (*Juniper virginiana*)
Sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*)
Silver maple (*Acer sacharinum*)
Red maple (*Acer rubra*)
Red oak (*Quercus rubrum*)
Black willow (*Salix nigra*)
Black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)
Smooth alder (*Alnus serrulata*)
Virginia sweetspire (Itea virginica)
Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)
Black elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
American bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*)
Common ninebark (*Physocarpus oplifolius*)
Swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*)
Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*)

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