

The Marsh Wren

SINCE 1976

THE FRIENDS OF DYKE MARSH

SUMMER 2008



The Friends of Dyke Marsh

FODM Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 7:30 p.m., Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria, VA 22306. 703-768-2525. Free to all.

Autumnal Arthropods

Sunday, September 28, 10 a.m. to 12 n. Walk and learn the ecology of Dyke Marsh with Dr. Edd Barrows, co-sponsored by GU Center for the Environment. See page 6.

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Dyke Marsh and the National Park Service

What's New in Marsh Management and Policing

Join the Friends on September 17 as we welcome Jon James of the NPS and Frank Barwinczak of the U.S. Park Police.

Jon James, Acting Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, will update members on the restoration plan, waysides, Dyke Marsh studies and other marsh management issues such as pets, boats, permits and bird boxes and platforms.

Sergeant Frank Barwinczak, District 2 Station, United States Park Police, will discuss some of the issues his force addresses. Sergeant Barwinczak says that some of the common problems the Park Police encounter are: (1) Commercial fishing, the taking and possession of fish and turtles by any method, especially the popular hoop traps, which are identifiable by the two stakes placed in the river bed, near the shoreline approximately fifteen feet apart. These fishing people use a cable with a woven net attached to each stake, best visible during low tide. The use of these traps often kills turtles caught in the nets during high tide or high river levels. (2) Unleashed dogs. "Frequently we



Park Ranger Erik Oberg of the National Park Service displays an illegal turtle trap found in Dyke Marsh. Photo by Judith Bulmer.

have had visitors bitten by dogs not attached to leashes as required by law," he e-mailed. (3) Sex offenses or sexual misconduct along the Dyke Marsh trail. The United States Park Police is the primary law enforcement agency that enforces laws and regulations on National Park Service properties.

Restoration Planning, Continued

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

National Park Service officials are compiling all the public comments and preparing the environmental impact statement for the restoration and management plans for Dyke Marsh. They expect to complete it in 2009. Around 110 people attended the April 22 public scoping meeting.

A number of public officials sent or signed a letter supporting the restoration of Dyke Marsh. Be sure to thank them when you see them:

Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors;

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland; Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova; William Euille, Mayor, city of Alexandria; Virginia Delegates: Delegate David Englin, Kris Amundson, Brian Moran, Adam P. Ebbin and David Bulova; Virginia Senators: Toddy Puller, Patsy Ticer, George Barker; Dan Storck, Chairman, Fairfax County School Board.

Also taking actions of support were former Congressman Herb E. Harris II, the Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations and the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Associations.

FODM Welcomes New Board Member

The Friends of Dyke Marsh extend a warm welcome to our new member of the board of directors, Ms. Bridget Wells. A native of Hilton Head Island in South Carolina's low country, Ms. Wells grew up with an appreciation of coastal living. Playing on beaches that overlooked oyster banks and heaps of empty oyster shells, she learned early that wetlands are an integral part of life. Her passion for the environment grew throughout the years on Hilton Head and later in Charleston where she witnessed the contradiction of nature's beauty and at the same time, swamps being drained for housing and golf courses. She moved to Northern Virginia seven years ago and became actively involved with the River Towers Nature and Environmental Group and is the president of the Friends of Westgrove Park. Bridget lives in Alexandria with her husband Richard, their two children, a dog and a bird.



Art for Dyke Marsh

Local artist, Sally Macklin and gallery owner, Shawn Myers, have kindly offered to donate 10 percent of sales to the Friends of Dyke Marsh from an upcoming exhibition at the Blueberry Gallery Alexandria, 3112A Mount Vernon Avenue, from September 6 to 28. There will be two opening receptions, September 6, 5 to 10 p.m., and September 7, 4 to 6 p.m. and two closing receptions, September 27 and 28, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call Shawn at 703-894-8854 for other hours or an appointment. Stop by and support Sally, the gallery and the marsh.

About Sally's work, art reviewer Jim Magner said, "Rejoicing at the universal circus of life. Pigs fly and dolphins dance. Spaceships play coy with airplanes in the afterglow of reality. Ladies in transition bend over backwards to make you smile, and having succeeded, pop a question about the meaning of it all." A big thank you to Sally and Shawn.

Dyke Marsh Presentation

FODM President Glenda Booth will give a presentation on Dyke Marsh at the Sherwood Regional Library on October 11, 3 p.m., open to the public. The library would appreciate pre-registration. Call 703-765-3645.

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for more information about us, our programs and how you can join the FODM.

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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 editor at the address on the left. Board members can receive mail at this address as well. Special thanks to Duncan Hobart for his assistance with our web page (www.fodm.org), and to Paula Sullivan and Ed Eder for their photography contributions to *The Marsh Wren* and the website.

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President's Message

Glenda C. Booth, President, Friends of Dyke Marsh

We've had a lot of activity in and around Dyke Marsh these last few months. Here are a few highlights.

Enhancing the Marsh: Board member Walter Bulmer and NPS's Erik Oberg are conducting a Marsh Wren survey, following the routes Sandy Spencer used in her master's degree research. Larry Cartwright and his teams have been conducting a breeding bird survey. We look forward to the results from these dedicated FODMers.

If you see droopy ivy and whacked down bush honeysuckle along the Haul Road, applaud. Five "weed warriors," headed by Elizabeth Ketz-Robinson, have started work controlling invasive plants. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter.) National Park Service biologists Brent Steury and Erik Oberg have been attacking purple loosestrife. Thank you!

In late June, NPS officials found an abandoned turtle trap. On the good news front, Erik found an otter midden and a gar spawning area and will lead us on a nature excursion in the spring.

Restoration: NPS is now analyzing all the comments submitted and will post them soon for the public. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

MOU: We are negotiating a new memorandum of understanding with the National Park Service, a document that stipulates our obligations and the agency's to preserve Dyke Marsh.

Waterfowl Hunting: On July 9, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries held a public information meeting to explain the waterfowl hunting rules and enforcement on the Potomac River. Because of concerns expressed by FODMers and people who live along the river,

four Virginia elected officials asked DGIF to hold the meeting: Delegate David Englin, Delegate Kris Amundson, Senator Toddy Puller and Senator Patsy Ticer.

The Impaired Potomac: There's more bad news for the Potomac River. Last year, the Potomac Conservancy gave it a D+ for its health. This year, Virginia on June 16 released its "dirty waters list" and portions of the Potomac are on the list, considered "impaired" by the state. The Potomac and many of its tributaries are under a PCB fish consumption advisory. The assessment covers 2001 to 2006. Maryland will issue a list later this year covering "our" part of the river. In Virginia, impaired rivers have grown from 2,611 miles in 1998 to 10,604 miles in 2008.

Parks Shortchanged: Looking nationally, our national parks suffer from chronic underfunding. Inadequate resources are "compromising the ability of the National Park Service to preserve and protect irreplaceable elements of our nation's natural and cultural heritage," according to a new science-based evaluation of our national parks by the National Parks and Conservation Association, *The State of Our National Parks: A Resources Index* (<http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/npri/>). NPCA says that annual shortfalls of \$800 million for NPS operations have led to disrepair, ranger shortages and fewer educational programs. The National Park Service has said it needs \$6 billion for deferred maintenance, according to the June 18 *Washington Post*. Park supporters may wish to urge our Congressional delegation to provide our national parks more resources.

Glenda C. Booth is the President of the Friends of Dyke Marsh and active in environmental issues in Virginia.

Learn About Restoration Efforts

Learn about the Belle View Floodwall and Levee Proposal: On November 19, Randy Bartlett, Director of the Fairfax County Stormwater Division, will make a presentation to FODM on the proposed floodwall/levee Belle View flood control project. At Fairfax County's request, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a preliminary report outlining several options for addressing serious flooding events, like the one that occurred in the Belle View area during Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The current COE options include building flood walls and levees around the area and "flood proofing" homes. The report says that any development would have "negative environmental and recreational impacts." You can read the complete report at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/bellehaven.htm>

New Film on Dyke Marsh: Michelle Williams is making a new film on Dyke Marsh, as part of her graduate work. We will have a premiere at our November 19 meeting. *Restoring Dyke Marsh* explores the value and beauty of Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, and that outlines the efforts

to both preserve and restore this irreplaceable habitat. The film explores a variety of perspectives and emphasizes the importance of protecting such a diverse and rare ecosystem. Amid a host of factors threatening the Preserve, *Restoring Dyke Marsh* tells the story of the people willing to fight not only for its continuing presence in our community, but also for the hope of seeing it restored to its original conditions. You will be able to order copies for \$10 plus shipping.

Let's Tackle Invasive Plants: One aspect of restoring Dyke Marsh is to control non-native species. Non-natives or invasives can outcompete and destroy natives. Four FODMers were trained and have begun work on some of the non-native plants in Dyke Marsh. Targeted plants include English ivy, garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and porcelain berry. The group began work in the area between the Haul Road and the bike trail, just south of the marina. The challenges are huge, but the rewards are great. We need more volunteers for whatever time you can give. The National Park Service is providing equipment and the trained FODMers can coach new volunteers. To help, call Elizabeth Ketz-Robinson at 703-768-1344.

The Dyke Marsh Centipede and Garbology of the Potomac River

BY DR. EDD BARROWS

On cool, overcast April 8, 2008, students of Georgetown University's Forest Ecology 355 visited Dyke Marsh and Jones Point to study the biodiversity of the area and the impact of garbage on the environment.

Mr. Danny Vance (my senior-thesis student), Mrs. Carol Day (Director, Georgetown University Health Education Services), Ms. Michelle Williams (American University student and film producer) and her two-person film crew also participated. Michelle is producing an environmental film (her M.F.A. thesis) which will be shown at FODM's November 19 meeting.

Before our visit, we watched the 2006 film *On the Edge: The Potomac River Dyke Marsh*. So, of course, soon after our arrival at DMWP, we searched for movie star Chip Johnston. We found him and exchanged greetings. Then we enjoyed the vista of the northern part of DMWP from the large dock. I hopped, made the dock move a bit, and explained to the class, "Remember when we discussed the floating mat of bogs? This dock is moving somewhat like such a mat. From here you can see the main habitats of the Preserve — the open marsh, floodplain forest and the swamp forest. Look south. That's the Haul Road peninsula. We'll be walking down the Haul Road to its end and enjoy the view of the Preserve from the boardwalk." Shadowed by Michelle and her crew, the class, Carol, Danny, Friends of Dyke Marsh's Robert Smith and I walked down Haul Road, learning about birds, bugs, plants and other biota. The class enjoyed interacting with Robert who offered interesting tidbits about DMWP.

We all were a little hesitant to leave the scenic boardwalk area to speed walk to our van to go to our next stop on time. As I sped back, I heard teaching assistant Katie Shaeffer call me, "What is the big bug?" I walked back to the site, and saw the chelicerae (poison fangs) of the rare-and-elusive giant Dyke Marsh Centipede (*Scolopendra dykemarshiensis* Linnaeus 1759)*. "Wow, what great eagle-eyes you have, Katie," I exclaimed. The film crew moved in for a close-up shot, and the class marveled at the arthropod's size and striking coloration. We visited Jones Point to study garbage and our unbridled consumer and throw-away society — major threats to forests, marshes and other habitats. People cleaned up DMWP's garbage a few days earlier, so National Park Service Ranger Miguel Roberson advised us to go to the Point for our garbological investigation. As Robert led us along the trail to the Point, the contrast between the highly disturbed area near the new Wilson Bridge and the healthful peace of DMWP struck us. The Bridge area was nerve-wrackingly noisy from traffic, smelled strongly of acetone from a substance applied to the bridge and had a small "pea-soup" pond, eutrophically choked by cyanobacteria and other biota. Carol thought that we should not breathe the unhealthy Bridge odor. I tried to hold my breath to protect myself against the chemical assault. We also saw the rolling garbage dunes along the Poto-

mac River in the area. Each student and Carol, who were protected by brown gardening gloves, filled a bag with garbage that we took back to our lab for study. During the last 15 minutes of our visit, we sat at a picnic table while Carol talked about environmental and human health and asked each of us to comment on our visit to DMWP and Jones Point. On Earth Day 2008, Katie gave us a creative Power-Point presentation of her statistical garbage analysis in alluring earth tones and textures. After her report, we viewed the somewhat startling video, "The Story of Stuff on YouTube."

*No one has really found the actual *Scolopendra dykemarshiensis* yet, but we are not giving up and are continuing the search.



A handsome larvae of the Smeared Dagger Moth (*Acronicta obliqua*, J. E. Smith), also called the Smartweed Caterpillar, is common in the Eastern U.S. The specimen in the photograph is more reddish than most individuals and may be a newly molted individual. Photo by Ed Eder.

Dyke Marsh Study

Reprints of *The Dyke Marsh Preserve Ecosystem*, a study of Dyke Marsh by Dr. David Johnston, are on sale. The 50-page study was published in *Virginia Journal of Science* in winter 2000 and describes Dyke Marsh in depth. \$10.00

Documentary DVD

Purchase a DVD copy of the 2006 Dyke Marsh documentary film *On the Edge*. \$25.00

Send payment along with your name and address to FODM, P.O. Box 7183, Alexandria, VA 22307. We'll send you your booklet or DVD to enjoy.

Message From the Superintendent

BY JON G. JAMES

Hello Friends of Dyke Marsh. This has been a busy summer at George Washington Memorial Parkway. Here are a few updates:

Hunting Information Meeting - Natural Resources Manager Brent Steury and I attended the Dyke Marsh area hunting information meeting hosted by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries on Wednesday, July 7. The meeting was informative and well-attended by many area residents and hunters. The staff of the George Washington Memorial Parkway has enjoyed a cordial working relationship with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for many years.

Survey Yields Trap and Trot Lines - While surveying for Marsh Wrens in June, Acting Biologist Erik Oberg and Friends of Dyke Marsh science advisor Walter Bulmer encountered a recently abandoned turtle trap. The net was closed and empty. The pair also recovered abandoned trot lines, or fishing lines with multiple baited hooks near turtle basking areas. Locations of the poaching sites were recorded for future monitoring.

Five Hundred Purple Loosestrife Plants Eradicated Staff from the George Washington Memorial Parkway

have removed over 500 invasive, non-native purple loosestrife plants this summer. Plants were pulled or cut, then treated with herbicide to kill residual roots. Most removals occurred along the Haul Road and boardwalk. We will monitor the plants for re-sprouting next season. Additional weed removal work targeting *Phragmites* is scheduled this fall.

Please continue to contact us at 703-289-2500 if you notice anything unusual in Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve.

Jon G. James is the Acting Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, NPS.

MVCCA Says, Mark the Boundaries

On May 28, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Associations approved a resolution urging the NPS to mark the eastern or river boundaries of Dyke Marsh and not wait until completion of restoration plans. The resolution noted that since hunting is allowed on the boundaries and activities like jet skis and poaching may occur in the marsh, enforcement is difficult without marked boundaries. The Friends of Dyke Marsh thank MVCCA for their efforts.

Nothing New About Skinks

BY DOUG WILSON

Observing reptiles and amphibians in the field is always challenging. The conditions have to be "just right" – warm enough (they are cold-blooded) to be outside, cool enough to justify the dangers of sunning, good chances of finding something to eat, etc. Usually, you will see nothing.

On a warm, sunny day in spring, I saw my first lizards in Dyke Marsh despite walking the trail often for six years. The first was eight inches long with a four inch body. It was a dark tan brown in color with very pale stripes. The head was orange. A second, smaller lizard was 4 inches long, black with bright white stripes and a bright blue tail. Both lizards had short legs, long tails and bullet-shaped heads. They appeared to slither over the ground, but could easily climb vertical wooden surfaces.

The ground-dwelling Five-lined Skinks (*Eumeces fasciatus*) range throughout the eastern half of North America and are most abundant on the coastal plain. As skinks mature, their stripes fade and their tails lose the bright blue coloration. The heads of mature males turn reddish orange during the breeding season.

Our area has isolated enclaves of several different types of lizards. Five-Lined Skinks are well known to be native to this area. But seeing them for yourself is a different matter. Despite visiting the same spot over a dozen times since, I have seen no lizards. This experience tells us something about field observation. A place we think we know extremely well can still surprise us.

CAROLINA WREN

Lord Byron lamented in verse
That he failed to fire lightning
In the minds of his readers
No matter how long or terse
His words.

Jim Croce sought to capture
That lightning in the lilt of his song,
To reach the hearts of hearers,
And bring a bolt of rapture
Through chords.

Out of the forest, like a bell rung,
I have heard that lightning flash
As word and music in notes
From the throat of a bird flung,
A wren.

Where poet and singer strive,
The tiny throat succeeds;
A charge that reaches to the soul;
Where will I feel more alive,
And when?

--Jack Sullivan

Alluring Autumnal Arthropods: September 28 Walk with Dr. Edd Barrows

Here's a great opportunity to learn about the ecology of Dyke Marsh: On September 28, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Dr. Edd Barrows, Professor, Department of Biology, Georgetown University, will describe the rich biodiversity and natural resources of Dyke Marsh. He has developed a biodiversity database of the Washington, D. C., area (<http://biodiversity.georgetown.edu/>). His research involves biodiversity, ecology and conservation of arthropods.

His website explains biodiversity like this: "Biodiversity provides ecosystem services that support human and other life on Earth. Research demonstrated that in general, on the average, greater diversity leads to greater productivity in plant communities, greater nutrient retention in ecosystems, and greater ecosystem stability.

Earth is presently experiencing the greatest killing of species since the end of the Cretaceous Period 65 mil-



A busy female Giant Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa virginica virginica* Linnaeus) visiting a flower of Spotted Jewelweed. Photo by Ed Eder.

lion years ago . . . A main cause of species extinctions is human destruction of natural habitats."

Dr. Barrows is the leading expert on the arthropods of the marsh. "Arthropods populate DMWP's many microhabitats, aquatic and terrestrial," he wrote. "Most of DMWP's arthropod species are likely to be present in at least one life stage (e.g., egg, immature, larva, pupa, adult) at a par-

ticular time of the year. The species of adult arthropods that one is likely to see in the Preserve vary with the weather, time of day, and day of the year."

On the September 28 walk, the arthropod groups we are likely to see include ants, aphids, bees, beetles, butterflies, centipedes, flower flies, isopods, midges, millipedes, spiders and wasps. Expected species include Clouded Sulphur Butterfly, Dancing White Butterfly, Eastern-tailed Blue Butterfly, European Earwig, Gold-green Sweat Bee, False Honey Ant, Monarch Butterfly, Spotted Cucumber Beetle, Variegated Asian Ladybird Beetle and Wandering Bumble Bee. And Dr. Barrows offered this intriguing tease: "With special luck and help of immigrant Leprechauns, we might even find the rare-and-elusive centipede *Scolopendra dykemarshiensi*."

Meet at the Haul Road entrance Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

A Letter to the Friends of Dyke Marsh

Excerpts from a letter to FODM we received recently:

Dear Friends -

It was early 1974, that I discovered the Marsh.

New to the area by the river, having bought a house in the area, toward the end of the winter, and drawn to the bike path, it was a number of months of stopping to observe, occasionally bringing binoculars to get a better look at all the wildlife that seemed to have a sanctuary so close, but "out there." The more I saw, the more I wondered if there was a way to get closer, and see more.

So I bought a canoe, set out one very early morning from the marina, and paddled down into this most remarkable place.

I found the Haul Road, coming in from the point, actually. Having beached the canoe there to step onto the rocks and finding the dry land, I saw it and curious where it led, followed it to find myself near to the put-in spot, back from where I had started

out. . . I sensed something huge, like a dark cloud, ahead, moving across the sun and I lifted my eyes forward. The wings seemed to span the width of the sky between the tree branches along both sides of the path, and it was coming straight toward me . . . no more than five feet above my head, passing over me. It was such a primeval moment, that I can still remember the depth of that feeling. And thus I met the Great Horned.

In the course of the next year or two, following my discovery, I became aware of the political and policy side of the Marsh. I remember that first winter meeting, and those that followed, and a sense that this place had to be fought for. I remember scholarly Ed Risley, and burly Jackson Abbott, who, like me, enjoyed taking any bull by the horns, and the others who brought wisdom, know-how, and a camaraderie of purpose.

I left the area in 1980, rarely to return as it seems my life journey has led elsewhere. But I treasure those of you I met, and those who have

stepped up. I treasure those many days, and the scenes of that unique place, in my soul.

Dyke Marsh is a treasure, and to be protected as such. Any deviation from that course, which it appears has been so well maintained in these decades, is not just a loss - it is poverty.

Ric Paul,
New Boston, New Hampshire

"When there is a conflict between conserving resources unimpaired for future generations and the use of those resources, conservation will be predominant."

Dirk Kempthorne, Secy.,
U. S. Dept. of Interior,
A proclamation given
June 19, 2006.

New Members for April through August

Please welcome our new LIFE MEMBERS:

Mary Lee Herbster - Janet Irwin
Richard M. Moose - Rex Wagner

And the following new FODM members: Dena Andre, Elizabeth Beardsley, Linda Berg, Elinor Coleman & David Sparkman, Patti & Jeff Delano, Cheryl Ellsworth & Tom Pardini, Bruce Glendening, Allie Hardee, Deirdre Hiebert, Col. Freeman E. Jones, Muriel Lipp, John & Betty McIntyre, Jason McNees, James Noel, Jeffrey Orenstein, Leslie Overstreet & Drew Arnold, Todd Peterson & Jennifer Waters, William & Pat Petrovic, Carl & Jeanine Santillo, Richard Shaffer & Margaret Stevens, Wendin Smith & Alex Kraus, Julie Thrower, Carl Trevisan, Allen Valpey, Katya Wanzer.

FODM Fall Calendar of Events

- September 6 - Art Show Opening (see page 2)
- September 17 - FODM Members' Meeting
- September 20 - International Coastal Cleanup Day
(9 a.m. to noon at Dyke Marsh)
- September 27-Dyke Marsh Cleanup (9a.m. - 11:30a.m.)*
- September 28 - Dr. Edd Barrows' Ecology Walk
- October 11 - Dyke Marsh Presentation, Sherwood
Regional Library, 3 p.m. (see page 2)
- November 2- Dyke Marsh Cleanup (9a.m. - 11:30a.m.)*
- November 4 - Election Day
- November 19 - FODM Members Meeting & Film

Cleanups at Dyke Marsh meet at the Belle Haven restrooms. Contact Miguel Roberson of the National Park

Sunday Morning Bird Walks at Dyke Marsh



Bird walks are held every Sunday morning, all year. 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. Photo by Ed Eder.

Service (miguel_roberson@nps.gov) if your group wants to organize a cleanup at Dyke Marsh; NPS will help you.

* For those with kayaks and canoes: 8-9 a.m. intro signup and boat launch/paddle. Contact Ranger Eric Oberg at 703 289-2542 or Eric_Oberg@nps.gov for details.

FODM quarterly meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitors Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria, VA. The meetings are free and all are welcome.

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 Dyke Marsh, our local natural treasure. To renew your membership, please send your tax-deductible contribution, 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. Additional contributions are most welcome. These help defray FODM's operating costs and support special programs and research. The mailing label on this *Marsh Wren* indicates membership status. Next to your name, one of the following will be indicated: LM — life member; *— complimentary copy; 07, 08, etc. — the year your membership expires. If the date indicated is 07 or earlier, please renew right away to keep *The Marsh Wren* coming and to continue your support of Dyke Marsh.

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 Barbara Perry. You may contact them by mail at FODM, P.O. Box 7183, Alexandria, Virginia 22307-7183, by telephone or by email (see page 2).

Report Problems at Dyke Marsh to U. S. Park Police

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

As stewards of the environment and partners with the U. S. National Park Service, FODMers may wish to report problems when we see them in the Dyke Marsh. Sgt. Barwinczak will tell us more on this subject at our September 17 meeting. Please call this U. S. Park Police number if you suspect inappropriate activities in Dyke Marsh – 202-619-7105. It is a dispatch office and open all hours and days. Here are some examples of activities that are not allowed in Dyke Marsh under current rules:

- Setting traps or collecting animals, such as turtles.
- Collecting or pulling plants.
- Hunting on the boundaries outside of the hunting season or hunting in the marsh at any time.
- Seine fishing.
- Having unleashed pets or allowing pets in the river. Leaving pet excrement on the ground.
- Riding jet skis or water skiing in the marsh.
- Bicycling on the Haul Road.



This permit is on a legal duck blind just outside the southern boundary of Dyke Marsh. Photo by Ned Stone.

FODM Needs More Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help control invasive plants, archive materials, plan events, and raise funds. Trained “weed warriors” can train others to recognize and address invasive plants and teams will be working this fall. If you can help in any of these activities, contact Glenda Booth at 703-765-5233, gbooth123@aol.com or Elizabeth Ketz-Robinson at 703-768-1344 for invasives. Please Step Up!



The Friends of Dyke Marsh
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