

# The Marsh Wren

SINCE 1976

THE FRIENDS OF DYKE MARSH

WINTER 2010



## The Friends of Dyke Marsh

### FODM Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m., Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria, Virginia 22306. 703-768-2525. Free to all.

### FODM Calendar 2010

The Board of Directors has announced the FODM quarterly meeting schedule for 2010. Meetings will be held on February 24, May 19, September 22 and November 17.

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## The Amazing Journey of the Red Knot

### Species Has One of the Longest Migrations in the World

The Red Knot is a shorebird that has one of the longest migrations in the world and times its spring trip north from South America to stop in Delaware Bay and fatten up on horseshoe crabs before continuing on to breed. Darin Schroeder, Vice President of Conservation Advocacy for the American Bird Conservancy, will tell the Red Knot story at FODM's February 24 quarterly meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center.

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and Prince George's Audubon are cosponsors of this program.

Schroeder has written, "If enough horseshoe crab eggs aren't there at the exact right time . . . and without an alternative, nutrient-rich food source to consume in their place, the knots' journey comes to a catastrophic end. This is exactly what began to happen in the 1990s, and by the end of the millennium, alarm bells were sounding for the potential extinction of the Red Knot." He and others are working to reverse the decline in the Red Knot population and craft public policies to protect these birds.



These Red Knots eat horseshoe crab eggs on the shoreline before continuing their migration. Photo by Clipart.com.

Darin Schroeder served as Wisconsin Offices Manager for U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) from 1993 until 2000, and then joined the staff of U.S. Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI) as Press Secretary. He played an instrumental role in expanding voluntary conservation programs in the 2002 Farm Bill and worked closely with ABC staff to introduce legislation reauthorizing the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Darin received a Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1993.

## New Waysides and a Larger Preserve

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

FODM sends our appreciation to the National Park Service for installing four beautiful new wayside signs and for seeking our input before finalizing them.

The waysides are factual and instructive, but also lead visitors to their own conclusions. They feature beautiful photos and text in Braille. One explains the "anatomy" of a freshwater tidal marsh. Another describes some of the changes and challenges facing the marsh.

FODM also thanks NPS for enlarging the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve by seven acres on the south end. Fee-simple



This wayside looks over the marsh from the boardwalk. Photo by Ned Stone.

interest in the title was passed from Howell G. Crim, Jr., to United States of America on October 27, 2008.

## Two New FODM Board Members

We welcome to the FODM Board two new directors, Ned Stone and Mary Carroll Potter.

Ned is a frequent presence in DMWP, both on land and water. He is a zealous collector of trash in the marsh, a champion "weed whacker" of invasive plants and a Trail Patrol Volunteer for NPS. When he is not volunteering for FODM, Ned teaches English to Spanish speakers. A retired physicist with the U. S. Naval Research Laboratory, Ned and his wife Lydia have lived in the Wellington neighborhood of southeastern Fairfax County for 28 years.

Why does he like the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve and want to be involved? "I love to be outdoors; I love birds and plants and open water. I want to be useful," answers Ned. He is particularly troubled by all the trash in the river and says, "Don't buy drinks in plastic bottles or styro-foam cups."

Mary Carroll Potter has returned to the Board. Inextricably involved in starting a nonprofit organization, she had to resign from the Board two years ago. She says she is glad that the nonprofit is now launched and that she was invited to rejoin the Board, and to again be FODM's program chairman. "I look forward," she said, "to finding speakers that help FODM members and friends understand how we as stewards can protect this vulnerable and unique marsh." Mary Carroll is a long-time resident of the Hollin Hills area. If you have suggestions for speakers, let her know at [marycarrollpotter@verizon.net](mailto:marycarrollpotter@verizon.net).

## In Memoriam: Wendell Cox

Wendell Hayes Cox, a valued, longtime FODM member, passed away on November 16, 2009, at age 79.

After graduating from Dartmouth, he worked for the Central Intelligence Agency and was trained in counterespionage. Later he worked in real estate. For almost sixty years, Wendell was husband and best friend to Solveig Cox, and first resource for her Cat Pottery business. They lived in Hollin Hills. Wendell was very involved in community life and liked to play golf, bridge and tennis. He had two children, David and Jennifer.

## Nature Walks

Mark your calendar for April 10, 2010, 10 a.m. to 12 noon when NPS Natural Resource Management Specialist Erik Oberg will lead a nature walk in Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. The focus is the current research in the preserve related to the restoration plan that NPS is preparing.

## FODMer's Photo in B&H Bank Calendar

Ned Stone's beautiful photograph of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve was chosen for the 2010 Burke and Herbert Bank calendar. Ned photographed an area of the marsh in the spring 2009 with trees silhouetted against the sunlit fog. Congratulations, Ned! You can get your calendar free at the bank, if there are any left.

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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 editorial address above. Board members too, can receive mail at this address. Special thanks to Duncan Hobart for managing our website ([www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org)), and to Paula Sullivan and Ed Eder for their photography contributions to *The Marsh Wren* and website.



## President's Message

Glenda C. Booth, President, Friends of Dyke Marsh

The Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve has been especially beautiful this winter, much of it still, cold and frozen. Devoted FOD-

Mers have braved the cold to enjoy the marsh. Challenges:

**Restoration:** NPS is continuing work on the management and restoration plan for the preserve (See article on page 5). When the draft becomes public, it will include several alternatives. FODM needs people with scientific and other expertise to help evaluate the options. Please contact me if you are interested in helping at [gbooth123@aol.com](mailto:gbooth123@aol.com) or 703-765-5233.

**Waterfowl Hunting:** Winter brings waterfowl hunting on the Potomac River. On January 1, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries issued five citations for alleged violations of state hunting laws both within and outside the boundaries of the DMWP. According to a DGIF official, the citations were, generally, for "hunting in the wrong location" and for "moving hunting buoys that designate where floating blinds can be located." According to press reports, the violations are a class 3 misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum fine of \$500.

When reporters asked me for a comment, I commended the DGIF's game wardens for taking action. Hunting within DMWP is prohibited. Hunting on the boundaries is regulated by the state. A cooperative agreement between DGIF and NPS imposes certain conditions on hunting along the boundaries. You should report any suspected hunting violations or poaching to DGIF at 1-800-237-5712 and to the U. S. Park Police at 202-619-7300. We'd like to know too.

**"Toxic River"?** The Potomac River supplies 90 percent of the drinking water in the Metro D.C. region, says the Potomac Conservancy, yet a "toxic stew is brewing . . ." The Conservancy's "State of the Nation's River" report (<http://www.potomac.org/site/>) outlines the presence of compounds that mimic or disrupt the normal functions of the endocrine system and adversely affect many aquatic species. For example, some male smallmouth bass in the Potomac watershed have developed eggs.

While the scientific research is ongoing, the Conservancy lists the following as problematic if they reach the river: personal care products, pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter medicines, agricultural pollution, animal feedlots, industrial byproducts and biosolids. PC says that "there are no EPA-approved tests for personal care products or pharmaceuticals in our drinking water or our wastewater." The group calls for government pharmaceuticals take-back programs as one solution. Fairfax County's Web site says, "Don't flush unused medicines." You can find their tips on how to dispose of them at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/dontflush/>.

Congressman Jim Moran (D-8-VA) has introduced the Endocrine Disruption Prevention Act of 2009 (H.R. 4190)

to facilitate research to determine whether "hormone-disrupting" chemicals are affecting human health.

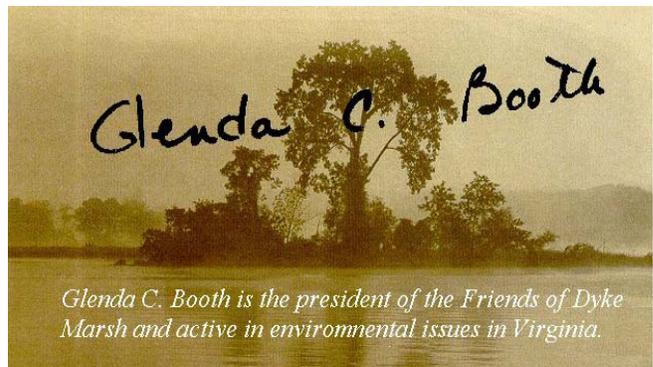
**Climate Change Will Affect Wetlands:** Many scientists maintain that climate change is one cause of sea level rise. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency reported that sea level in the Chesapeake Bay has risen approximately 30 centimeters (one foot) over the past century, twice the global average. Without action, the Potomac River could rise by two feet by 2050 or with a surge, by four feet, say National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration experts.

"The shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, such as the Potomac River, are among the region's most threatened resources . . .," the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) reported last year. A Virginia-based organization called Wetlands Watch estimates that at this rate of sea level rise, Virginia could lose 50 – 80 percent of the state's tidal wetlands.

U. S. Interior Department Secretary Ken Salazar in September announced a climate change response strategy to address climate change impacts on the country's natural resources. DOI's Web site says, "Climate change may dramatically affect water supply of certain watersheds, impact coastal wetlands and barrier islands, cause relocation of and stress on wildlife populations, increase wildland fire threats, create new invasions of exotic species, among many other potential impacts. DOI is taking the lead in protecting our nation's resources from these impacts and in using our public lands to mitigate climate change." We look forward to hearing what NPS is doing in our area. See the related article on NPS Director Jarvis's visit to DMWP on page 5.

**Hydrilla:** Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland asked the county staff to consult with the U. S. Corps of Engineers about addressing hydrilla in the Potomac River. We asked him to amend his directive to urge county staff to require the staff to also consult with the NPS and to avoid approaches that would kill or harm native vegetation. He agreed and we thank him.

I'll see you in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve as spring unfolds soon.



## 2009 Christmas Bird Count Braves Winter Weather

Preliminary results from the two Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in our area, the Fort Belvoir Count and the Washington D.C. Count, which includes the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, are described below by their respective compilers, both of whom are FODMers. Christmas Bird Counts, sponsored by the Audubon society, are census counts of birds in the Western Hemisphere, conducted by volunteers during the early Northern Hemisphere winter.

**Washington, D.C.** - Well, it finally happened. Generally we have been blessed with fairly decent or at least tolerable weather during the D.C. Christmas Bird Count. This year was different. It is winter after all! Originally scheduled for December 19, 2009, the count had to be postponed until January 2, 2010 following the now famous 18-inch snowfall. The snow was gone by January 2, but count day blessed us with maximum winds up to 35 miles per hour.

Despite windy conditions, the teams surveying the DMWP and points north up to Daingerfield Island found some pretty good birds. Small songbirds that confine their foraging activities to the trees were difficult to find in some cases, but birds that make their living in low bushes are on the ground were well represented in some instances. How about this figure for example? The teams recorded an impressive number of over 150 Northern Cardinals--a common bird for sure, but still impressive. The teams there also tallied some rarities, the most surprising a Black-and-white Warbler followed by two Orange-crowned Warblers and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Dyke Marsh yielded an American Tree Sparrow. Finally, waterfowl diversity was greater than in previous counts, with highlights being a Greater White-fronted Goose, a Cackling Goose, a Greater Scaup, 15 Canvasbacks, and four Redheads.

--Larry Cartwright, Compiler, Washington D.C. CBC

### Ft. Belvoir

Despite two weeks of snowy, cold weather and low temperatures on January 3, 2010 further depressed with 20-40 mph winds, the preliminary species total for the Fort Belvoir CBC is an outstanding 111, a bit below the historical average of 113 to 114.

Highlights were: Cackling Goose, Occoquan Bay NWR; Great Egret, Fort Belvoir; Merlin, OBNWR, Mason Neck and Mount Vernon; Peregrine Falcon, Leesylvania State Park; Virginia Rail, Huntley Meadows; King Rails, Huntley Meadows; Glaucous Gull, Mason Neck Hallowing Pt. Estates; Brown-headed Nuthatch, Fountainhead Park - ONLY the second occurrence in Fairfax County EVER; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hard Bargain Farm, MD; Yellow-throated Warbler, Indian Head, MD; Common Yellowthroat, Burke Lake area; Brewer's Blackbird, Mason Neck Hallowing Pt Estates.

The weather notwithstanding, this was a fine count and shows not only the diversity of habitats and species in our area but that we have a dedicated and fine group of volunteers. Kudos to the counters!

--Kurt Gaskill, Compiler, Fort Belvoir CBC



Brown-headed Nuthatch sighted was only the second record for Fairfax County ever. Photo by Dan Sudia.

## Belle Haven Country Club Golf Course Agrees to Protect Bald Eagle's Nest

Since November, a pair of bald eagles has been "sprucing up" a nest on the eastern edge of the Belle Haven Country Club Golf Course, just west of the George Washington Parkway. Last year, a pair, and perhaps the same pair, built a nest in the same tree, but did not succeed in hatching an egg.

The Belle Haven Country Club and golf course managers have again agreed to protect the eagle pair. They will keep golfers and course maintenance crews away from the nest, they say, and follow Virginia's bald eagle protection guidelines. These guidelines, from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, specify an area 750 feet in radius around the nest. They define the breeding/nesting season as December 15 to July



Belle Haven Country Club has again agreed to protect this nest. Photo by T.D. Hobart

15 and list activities that should not occur including human entry, use of motorized vehicles, use of toxic chemicals and loud noises. The Friends of Dyke Marsh extend our appreciation to the country club managers for these steps.

William and Mary College biologists, who have been conducting eagle surveys since 1956, have a website showing nesting places of eagles throughout Virginia (<http://www.ccb-wm.org/virginiaeagles/index.htm>). In 2009, they found 612 nests in the state, a five percent increase from the previous year. They identified 19 active nests along the shoreline of the Potomac River from Old Town Alexandria to Woodbridge, reported James Rees, Director of Mount Vernon Estate.

## National Park Service Director Visits DMWP to Film Video

National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis visited the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve on December 29 to film a video for NPS employees as part of his “flat hat chat” series. Director Jarvis, formerly NPS Director of NPS’s Pacific West Region and before that a park ranger, made these comments about the impact of climate change on the nation’s parks.

“As most of you know, stewardship is one of my top priorities as your director. I’m here today in Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, to talk about one of the greatest issues — one of the greatest challenges — that is going to be facing the National Park Service in the future, and that [issue] is climate change.”

“I came here today to Dyke Marsh as a place to show an example of where the effects of climate change will have a direct effect on a critical resource. This is a marsh that is influenced by the tides of the Atlantic Ocean, and if sea level rises to the level that’s predicted, there will be changes here at Dyke Marsh.”

“At the International Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen, it was the NPS and other protected-area managers around the world that asserted that the places that we manage, like national parks, have an essential role in climate change. First, they are areas of ecosystem resilience. Second, they provide for carbon sequestration. And third, they are great venues for educating the public.”

“Already, we are seeing changes in our national parks as a result of changes to the climate. For instance, the glaciers in Glacier National Park and the glaciers in Mount Rainier National Park are melting and I think we can find direct attribution to climate change for these changes.”

“When the public comes to Mount Rainier National Park and asks about the ice caves that they remember as

kids — that’s a teachable moment for us to engage them in a discussion about climate change and the impacts that we’re already seeing.”

“We’re also concerned about the effects of climate change on cultural resources as well. There are archeological sites all up and down the coasts of the United States, and many of those are within our care. We will have to change our priorities in how we assess, monitor, and protect those archeological sites in light of sea-level rise.”

“So I’m asking each of you to begin to do a number of things. First of all, green up your national parks. Green up your operations and demonstrate to the American public the very highest in sustainable practices. The second is to look at opportunities for education, to use the information that we are generating through our inventory and monitoring program and our other science programs to show the public where there are demonstrated effects from climate change as well.”

“In the coming months and years, you’re going to hear a lot more from me about climate change. This is a very high interest of the secretary [Secretary Salazar] and of all the agencies in the Department of Interior, and we’re going to be standing up landscape conservation cooperatives and science centers across the country to address climate change to provide you the tools you will need to help address these within your individual parks and programs. The National Park Service has an essential role in climate change, and I want each of you to be involved. Thank you very much.”

To learn more about the National Park Service and climate change and what you can do, visit the website [www.nps.gov/piro/naturescience/climate-change.htm](http://www.nps.gov/piro/naturescience/climate-change.htm)

## Dyke Marsh Wetland Restoration Update

The National Park Service is preparing a draft Dyke Marsh Wetland Restoration and Long Term Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, as directed by Congress in 1974. Around 270 acres of DMWP were dredged on the outer fringes between 1940 and 1972. Additionally, construction debris and other fill have been placed in the wetland and invasive species are quite widespread.

In an October update, the National Park Service reported that they have consulted with experts, done fieldwork, conducted a bathymetry survey to assess erosion and deposition and had an archaeological assessment prepared. NPS has asked the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin work on hydrologic modeling and conceptual design.

NPS does not have a target date for completing the plan, but when they do, they will have a public meeting to receive comments. The NPS document will include several alternatives. FODM will notify members of NPS’s public meetings when they are scheduled.

### TRACKS IN THE SNOW

Last night it snowed and I am first to walk this  
woodland road,  
All around, crisscrossing like electrons, tracks  
abound.  
Raccoon or rabbit? Fox or squirrel? Unseen withal;  
Prints I once recognized but now cannot recall.

As boy I ran a line of traps one bleak December,  
To catch and skin a furry pelt, earn half a dollar,  
My interest waned when no animal was snared  
A fortunate failure, no late regret to bear.

I look behind at my own footfalls traced in snow,  
Those deep-made tracks the forest creatures know,  
And why they hide.

--Jack Sullivan

## FODM Presents Photos to Elected Officials

BY GLENDA BOOTH

Make sure you check out our Web site, [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org), and you'll see that FODM has presented photographs of the DMWP to our federal elected officials, in appreciation of their support of our efforts and the preserve: Senators Mark Warner and Jim Webb and Congressmen Jim Moran, Gerry Connolly and John Dingell. Senator Webb put a picture of our presentation to him on his Web site for a week or so. Again, we thank them for their support and look forward to seeing Dyke Marsh "displayed" prominently in the U. S. Capitol.

The photographs that we gave them were taken by Ed Eder, Ned Stone, Paula Sullivan and the late, Valerie Gregg.

At his staffer's request, FODM also gave Senator Webb a photograph



Senator Jim Webb receives photo from FODM President Glenda Booth. Photo by T.D. Hobart.

for his northern Virginia office, taken by Ned Stone. The Senator's Northern Virginia Director, Gwen Sigda, wrote, "I am in my new office and wanted to let you know the picture of Dyke Marsh looks absolutely lovely in our reception area for all to enjoy. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness."



Congressman Connolly is presented his photo by Glenda Booth with R. Smith, D. Hobart and D. McManus.



Senator Mark Warner receives photo from Glenda Booth accompanied by Mary Jo Detweiler and Ned Stone.

## Hyland to Hold Town Meeting - General Assembly Meets

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland will hold his annual town meeting on February 20 at Mount Vernon HS, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. FODM will have an exhibit. This is a good opportunity to learn all about what's going on in the community, some of which can directly affect DMWP.

Local public parks and other natural resource programs are threatened by budget cuts in most jurisdictions as revenues have plummeted and elected officials try to balance

budgets. The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park have an online petition directed to county officials urging them to protect Fairfax County's parks. You can sign it by going here: [www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](http://www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org).

The Virginia General Assembly will meet until March 15. You can keep up with conservation-related bills at the Virginia League of Conservation Voters' Web site, <http://capwiz.com/valcvf/issues/bills/>. To find your state legislators, go here: [http://legis.state.va.us/1\\_cit\\_guide/contacting\\_my.html](http://legis.state.va.us/1_cit_guide/contacting_my.html).

## FODMer Voted VA Delegate

FODM member Scott A. Surovell was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates for the 44th district in November and sworn in on January 13. Scott will take the seat of retiring Delegate Kris Amundson. He is the son of FODM President Glenda Booth and Robert J. Surovell. The 44th district is roughly the area from Huntington Metro south to Fort Belvoir, but does not include the Belle View/Westgrove/Hollin Hills area. DMWP is in the 45th delegate district. Many FODMers live in these districts. The incumbent in the 45th, David Englin, was re-elected. Delegates serve two-year terms. Redistricting could change these boundaries. FODM sends congratulations to Scott and David!

## Webb-Warner Bill Moves

Senators Jim Webb and Mark Warner introduced S. J. Res. 297, recognizing the importance of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported it on December 16 and we expect the full Senate to act soon. The bill is identical to Congressmen Moran's and Connolly's bill, H. Res. 701, which passed the House on a 325 to 93 vote on October 7, 2009.

## Stuck With the Snakeheads

"We are stuck with it. The snakehead fish is here to stay," says John Odenkirk, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries biologist. This fish, native to Asia, could restructure the ecosystem, though Odenkirk and others hope to slow it down. He says that the population and their range are expanding. Called "Frankenfish" by some detractors, the snakehead has a high capacity to tolerate poor water, is quite a voracious eater and presumably has no predators here, except humans.

Northern Virginia's waters are thought to have many exotic fish, in part because people buy them for aquariums and then release them. To watch a four-minute video of the snakehead in Fairfax County, go to [www.dgif.virginia.gov/video/?video=9](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/video/?video=9).

## Volunteers Tackle Trash and Invasives

Late winter and early spring are the best times to pick up trash in the Preserve and along the Potomac River, when warmer weather returns and before the land vegetation fills in and poison ivy lurks. The Alice B. Ferguson Foundation's annual area-wide cleanup will be on April 10. The National Park Service usually signs up DMWP for this cleanup, so keep the date open and look for an email from FODM. If you are interested in trash cleanup on an unscheduled basis, contact Ned Stone at ned-stone@verizon.net.



Volunteers clean up the park shore. Photo by Ned Stone.

A group of stalwarts continues to address non-native plants in the DMWP most Friday mornings and the NPS has assigned a new staffer to help us, Kevin Hull. By removing invasives like bush honeysuckle and English ivy, more native plants can return and provide food, shelter and staging areas for birds and other wildlife. NPS may plant some native plants in a few years. If you would like to help, contact Ned Stone at ned-stone@verizon.net. FODMers can train you. It's fun, congenial and good exercise.

FODM thanks Cub Scout troop 1504, based at Wayneswood Elementary School, and the Youth Conservation Corps for working on invasives and trash. FODM extends appreciation to NPS employees Brent Steury, Erik Oberg and Kevin Hull for their support.

## FODM Welcomes 15 New Members

Please welcome our new annual FODM members Anthony Bates & Mary Thompson, Lewis Cabe, Clay & Sue Cook, John Fox, Paul Grimaldi, James & Patricia Knoy, Susan Kofler, Harry & Kathryn Lyon, Kate Stonehouse, Joanna Taylor, and Marta Vastagh. Is it time to renew your membership in FODM? If your *Marsh Wren* mailing label says 09 or earlier to the right of your name, renew NOW, so you'll be up-to-date and continuing to support Dyke Marsh.

U. S. Park Police, Emergency Number: 202-619-7300

## Sunday Morning Bird Walks



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 to join us. Photo by Ed Eder.

## 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. The mailing label on this *Marsh Wren* indicates membership status. If the date indicated is 08 or 09, time to send in your renewal dues. For those with 08, renewal should be for 2 years (2009 and 2010) or \$30. If the number is 09, a \$15 renewal keeps you up-to-date. If your label says 10, you're good for the current year. Finally, if the number is 11 or higher or if the label shows a \*, thanks for your continuing support of the work 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 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).

## What's Going On In Dyke Marsh: Plants In Winter

Dr. Elizabeth Wells, George Washington University, has kindly provided this list of plants observable in winter. She says that this list will be about the same until spring when buds begin to break and herbs and herbaceous perennials begin to appear at the soil's surface.

1. *Hibiscus moscheutos* (Rose mallow, wild cotton) -- herbaceous perennial, therefore dead to the ground, but dead stems with dried one-inch-long capsules remaining, about four to five feet tall.

2. *Cornus amomum* (Swamp dogwood) -- woody, deciduous shrub, therefore bare red branches with opposite leaf scars, visible in higher reaches of the marsh at north end and south end of wooden bridge.

3. *Rosa palustris* (Swamp rose, wild rose) -- woody, semi-deciduous shrub, therefore rose-like leaves dried up but still on prickly branches, some reddish rose hips visible at tips of branches, plants in higher reaches of the marsh, one at the north end and two at the south end of wooden bridge near Tulane Dr.

4. *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Button bush) -- woody, deciduous shrub, therefore bare brown branches and maybe

a few spherical fruits, visible in higher reaches of the marsh at the north end of the wooden bridge near Tulane Drive.

5. *Sambucus canadensis* (Elderberry) -- woody, deciduous shrub, therefore bare brown branches with opposite leaf scars, one plant just north of where creek flows under the wooden bridge near Tulane Drive in sight of the parkway.

6. *Viburnum dentatum* (Arrowwood) -- woody, deciduous, therefore bare brown branches with opposite leaf scars, a few plants in the higher reaches of the marsh close to the Tulane Drive parking lot.

7. *Typha angustifolia* (narrow-leafed cattail) -- herbaceous perennial, therefore dead to the ground but the stems with cattails can be seen in a few places out in the marsh; probably the most abundant species in the marsh

8. *Lonicera maakii* (Exotic bush honeysuckle) -- woody, deciduous shrub, therefore bare brown branches with opposite leaf scars, extremely (nauseatingly) abundant along the Haul Road and elsewhere in the wooded part of the marsh near Belle Haven Park. (Editor's note: This invasive plant is a major target of the removal efforts of the FODM "weed whackers.")



Dyke Marsh's Haul Road has many plants to observe in winter.

**The  
Marsh Wren**

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