

Friends of Blackwater NWR

# ***BLACKWATER TIDELINES***



Winter 2010-2011

The Friends of Blackwater is a non-profit cooperating association founded in 1987 assisting Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex to carry out their educational, interpretive and public use missions.

**We Are**

**Going Green**

**This newsletter is our last  
printed edition**

**See Page 2**

## Last Printed Newsletter

In the last two issues of “Tidelines” we alerted you that in order to conserve our natural resources and to eliminate newsletter production costs and associated mailing costs, your Board of Directors is in favor of combining our updates with the more timely information that is available on the FOB website at:

### [friendsofblackwater.org](http://friendsofblackwater.org)

The fact is that “going green” will also result in savings of thousands of dollars that will now be allocated to Refuge projects. Over the last 6 months we have received no negative comments relative to “going green.” So we are, with this edition, terminating “Tidelines” as you have known it for years in its printed form. Effective immediately, important messages and/or articles will be forwarded to our webmaster for inclusion with her more regular communications.

There are two ways that you may ensure getting this more up to the minute information:

#### “TIDELINES”

is published by  
“Friends of Blackwater, Inc.”  
to keep its members apprised of plans and activities associated with its efforts to assist the refuge in its educational, interpretive and public use missions.

Readers are invited to share thoughts, comments, observations and suggestions in addition to providing articles for publication.

Please direct communications to:

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Friends of Blackwater  
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Cambridge, MD 21613

Phone/Fax 410-221-1874  
email: [rontillier@hotmail.com](mailto:rontillier@hotmail.com)

Ron Tillier, Editor  
Thank you for your continued support.

[www.friendsofblackwater.org](http://www.friendsofblackwater.org)

1. If you have not already done so, provide us with your e-mail address so that we can provide you with the most up to date happenings. Rest assured that your email address will not be given to anyone and will only be used to for the purpose referenced above.

2. Alternatively, you may decide to visit our website at your convenience to learn what is happening when you wish to know it.

Should you decide to provide us with your e-mail address please send it to Peggy Tillier at:

### [eaglesnest16@hotmail.com](mailto:eaglesnest16@hotmail.com)

Thank you for your membership and for sharing our beliefs which will provide more current pertinent information and significant additional funds to the Refuge that you love.

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## Cam Chatter

*By Lisa Mayo – volunteer webmaster*

If you’ve visited the Friends of Blackwater Eagle Cam on our website recently, you’ve undoubtedly seen that we now have three eggs in the nest. Our faithful eagle parents had been visiting the nest and sprucing it up during the fall and winter, when suddely on January 13, we had our first egg. This is the earliest that we’ve had an egg on the Eagle Cam since we went live back in late 2004. Following this wonderful surprise, we then got a second egg on January 16 and a third on January 20. This is only the second time we’ve had three eggs on the Eagle Cam since our first year in 2004 – when we were privileged to have three eaglets successfully hatch and fledge.

Looking back, we have very fond memories of our 2004-2005 Eagle Cam season. Not only was it an exciting time because it was our first year broadcasting live images from an eagle nest, but it was also magical because we were treated to the added bonus of three chicks in the nest. Our eagle parents were put to the test

with three hungry kids to feed, but they did a great job and the food was plentiful. It was not only a testament to the skill of our parents but also to the bounty of food that was available at Blackwater NWR.

During the spring of 2005, we got a call from Craig Koppie, who is the endangered species specialist in the Chesapeake Bay Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Craig is also a raptor expert, and he told us that he was collecting Maryland eaglets for the Vermont Bald Eagle Restoration Initiative. At the time, Vermont was the only state without a breeding pair of bald eagles (eagles were native to the state but breeders had been missing for almost 70 years), so Northeastern states that had a large population of eagles were donating eaglets to the project. Biologists knew that if the eaglets fledged in Vermont, then they would be imprinted on the area, and would likely return there to breed.

So on May 4, 2005, Craig paid a visit to our Eagle Cam nest 80 feet up in a loblolly pine tree. He banded all three eaglets and removed our large middle chick – a healthy female – and took her and several other eaglets to Vermont where she was placed in a hacking tower. Our Eagle Cam parents took the loss of their middle chick in stride, and quickly went about caring for the remaining two chicks.

Our female chick in Vermont went on to successfully fledge several weeks later with her other classmates, and since that time the Vermont Bald Eagle Restoration Initiative has ended. Overall the Initiative released 29 bald eagles between 2004 and 2006.

As for the bald eagle’s recovery in Vermont, the latest news from state officials is that in 2010, nine bald eagle pairs nested in Vermont and produced five eagle fledglings.

We don’t know what excitement awaits us on our 2010-2011 Eagle Cam, but we hope for the best-which is three healthy eaglets that go on to fledge. And if they do, we also hope that one day they’ll return to Blackwater NWR to possibly raise a family of their own.

We invite you to join us for our latest eagle adventure by visiting our Eagle Cam at :

[www.friendsofblackwater.org/  
camhtm2.htm](http://www.friendsofblackwater.org/camhtm2.htm)

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## Bookstore News

By Charlotte Hehn

The Eagles Nest book/nature store has a number of interesting new items for the nature-inspired jewelry enthusiast. Anju, an India-based company, has created a beautiful handcrafted nickel-free line with dragonfly, leaf, and tree designs. The necklace and earring set is reasonably priced at \$17.00, and the matching bracelet is only \$11.00. You'll definitely receive compliments on these beautiful pieces!

The Bamboo Jewelry line, which has been very popular at Blackwater, now includes a custom laser engraved bamboo box that features the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge logo.

An outstanding value can be found in the new 3-D, 360°, laser etched paperweights. We currently have 3 designs: butterfly, flying eagle, and eagle head, each with "Blackwater NRW" etched into the design. Priced at only \$5.95 this is the perfect souvenir of your visit to Blackwater.

If the eagle design paperweights get you in the mood for the upcoming Eagle Festival (March 12), don't forget about our eagle-design Blackwater ceramic mugs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, denim shirts, pewter letter openers, caps, hats, as well as numerous books, guides, postcards, note cards, and jewelry items – all featuring eagles and suitable for all ages.

### And Speaking of Books . . .

You've seen the ads on television and now autographed copies of the exciting new book "**Wild Delmarva**", by Kevin Fleming, is available in the Blackwater & Eastern Shore section of the Eagles Nest bookstore. "*Wild Delmarva*" is destined to become the peninsula's

favorite photography book. The power of the award-winning photography is instantly obvious. Never before has one photographer so completely captured Delmarva's wildlife and wild places. From the hilly Piedmont in the north to the marsh southern tip of Cape Charles, and the streams, forests and fields in between, Kevin has discovered the wild side of Delmarva that most people rarely get to see. His evocative images are both familiar and surprising. Here are herons, egrets, foxes, beavers, ducks, snakes, and salamanders. Kevin has photographed nature's dramatic life-or-death struggles like the Great Blue Heron about to kill and eat a young Clapper Rail. Here too, Kevin captures nature's quiet moments with so many stunningly beautiful landscapes.

Traveling by kayak, boat, bicycle, and four-wheel drive the veteran photographer spent a year-and-a-half in a quest to find these unforgettable images that are the essence of the Delmarva Peninsula. Whether he is standing waist-deep in a salt marsh at sunrise or patiently waiting motionless in a wildlife blind, Kevin puts the view at the dramatic center of every photograph. Even a lifelong resident of Delmarva will see our wildlife and wild places with a new appreciation. Kevin has captured so many incredible moments and beautiful landscapes that "*Wild Delmarva*" is a must-have book for your coffee table. You will want to take this book home and share these treasures with your family and friends.

Complementing Kevin's photography are essays by some of Delmarva's leading wildlife writers and experts. Tom Horton's foreword describes why Delmarva is unique in all of America. Jeffery A. Gordon takes you on ten great bird watching tours. Jim White tells you where and how to find reptiles and amphibians and Derek Stoner's words will inspire you to discover the beauty of Assateague Island for yourself. "*Wild Delmarva*" is a breathtaking testament to the beauty of nature on the Delmarva Peninsula. Come turn the pages of this powerful book and you will remember these classic photographs for a lifetime. (\$50)

Also in the Blackwater and Eastern Shore section of the bookstore, we've recently added "*Young Frederick Douglass: The Maryland Years*" (\$25) by Dickson J. Preston, with a forward by James Michener. Drawing on previously untapped sources, this book recreates with fidelity and in convincing detail the background and early life of the man who was to become "the gadfly of America's conscience" and the undisputed spokesman for nineteenth-century African-Americans. This highly regarded biography traces the life and times of Frederick Douglass from his birth on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 1818 until 1838, when he escaped from slavery to emerge upon the national scene. At the time of Douglass's death in 1895, one eulogist wrote that he was probably the best-known American throughout the world since Abraham Lincoln. Presto's book is fascinating reading for those concerned with both African-American and Chesapeake Bay history. It is an imaginative, balanced, but sympathetic picture of a great man's youth in the slaveholding South and of his multifaceted attitude toward the Eastern Shore. This major biography, remarkably thorough documentation of the first

### Expanded Membership Benefits

- Blackwater Paddle and Pedal  
10% Discount on rentals  
410-901-9255
- The Island Grille (Taylors Island)  
10% discount on meals--bar charges  
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- Madison Bay Restaurant and Bar  
10% discount on meals--bar charges  
excluded  
410-228-1108
- Ransome's Chesapeake Retreats  
10% discount on stays and retreats  
888-988-5747
- Cambridge House B&B  
112 High St. Cambridge  
10% discount on stays  
410-221-7700

quarter of Douglass's life, gives us a more three-dimensional, more human Frederick Douglass than most sources. But perhaps, best of all, this book comes to grips with the real Eastern Shore, that remarkable enclave overlooked by history.

Another exciting new book, "*Molt in North American Birds*," is an exciting addition to our reference section. To most observers, molt seems an overwhelming subject. But birders use many aspects of molt more than they realize to distinguish juvenile birds from adults, to pick out an individual hummingbird from among dozens visiting a feeder, and much more. And for those whose interest goes beyond simply identifying birds, questions such as, What triggers molt to start? How fast do feathers grow? And how long do they last?, offer a fascinating window into the lives of birds. Put plainly, molt relates in some way to everything a bird does, including where it lives, what it eats, and how far it migrates. Here, for the first time, molt is presented for the nonscientist. Molt is very orderly and built on only four underlying strategies: Simple Basic, Complex Basic, Simple Alternate, and Complex Alternate. This book clearly lays out these strategies, and the more than 270 photographs help make the subject accessible. Each family of birds has its own account, starting with an overview of factors such as biogeography, taxonomy, habitat, and migration. Next come the molting strategy or strategies of the family, as well as when and where the different molts occur. In-depth explanations usually follow, often broken down into one or more sections that cover the particular molts and relate them to aspects of life history and ancestry. Additional topics include case studies, groups of particular interest, and related subjects. (\$35)

Blackwater and the Mid-Atlantic region contain a wealth of plant life. If you often find yourself wondering about the name and characteristics of various plants you encounter, take a look in our Trees and Flowers section and consider, "*Common Plants of the Mid-Atlantic Coast*". From eelgrass rooted in wrack lines on windswept back shores to hardy maritime forests sculpted by strong winds and salt

spray, the Mid-Atlantic coast is rich with a variety of habitats and an abundance of common, if not always familiar, plants. This volume provides a field guide to the plants found along the coast from Long Island Sound to North Carolina's barrier islands. This introduction to the fragile ecology and remarkable beauty of the flora of the coastal region was highly praised by reviewers when it was first published in 1982. This revised edition retains the features that earned it acclaim and provides a wealth of new information. The three sections of the book correspond to the natural divisions of the landscape:

Part One covers beaches, dunes, and marine forests; Part Two includes salt and brackish marshes; and Part Three reviews plants found in tidal and nontidal freshwater wetlands. Each section begins with an introduction that describes the characteristics of the area and the flora to be found there. Individual plant entries follow. Delicate illustrations accompany facing-page descriptions that aid in identification and provide concise background information, as well as delightful anecdotes. Plant entries now include the subheadings: "Growth Habit and Diagnostic Characteristics," where the reader will find descriptions of general appearance; "Distribution," which tells where along the coast the plant is found, "Habitat," and, particularly important in this age of heightened environmental awareness, "Ecological Value/Benefits." The author has also added each plant's "Wetland Indicator Status," which estimates a species' frequency of occurrence in wetland habitats. Seventeen species have been added to this fully updated second edition. The appendices now include websites for various federal and state coastal parks, refuges, and natural areas. An easy-to-use key helps readers identify plants in the field according to physical features. (\$27.00)

You don't have to be a gourmet chef to create tasty dishes that will entice birds to your backyard. "*Cooking for the Birds: Recipes to Attract and Feed Backyard Birds*" shows you how to spend minutes in the kitchen that will provide hours of bird watching fun! Creating unique dishes and watching birds are two great ways to

spend an afternoon so why not combine them? *Cooking for the Birds* features 26 simple recipes; perfect to tackle alone or with the whole family. With tips on selecting the right ingredients for the right birds, you can attract the birds you want to see!

- See more birds in your backyard
- Create fun for the whole family
- Draw "hard-to-get" birds to your area
- Attract 74 backyard birds, including orioles, hummingbirds and more

Invite "everybirdy" to your yard with a banquet of nutritious, home-cooked foods! (\$9.95)

#### And For The Young Readers. . .

"*About Raptors: A Guide for Children*," is a thoughtful yet entertaining first glimpse into the world of nature for young children. In this easy-to-read, informative book, author and teacher Cathryn Sill explains what the birds called raptors are, how and where they live, and what they do. With the help of beautifully detailed paintings from notes wildlife illustrator John Sill, this book explains the basic characteristics that all birds of prey share, while offering a closer look at a variety of different raptors – from the majestic Bald Eagle of North America to the sharp-eyed Secretary Bird of Africa. An after word provides further detail to inspire young readers to learn more about raptors. "About Raptors will accurately answer the first questions of young naturalists and charm readers with the wonder and diversity of birds of prey. (\$16.95)

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This is a perfect  
time to plan  
a visit to  
BNWR

## **We Have Lost a Dear Friend Thelma Insley**

Refuge staff and members of the Friends of Blackwater were saddened to learn of the loss of a very special person on January 17, Thelma Insley.



*Thelma accepting Award from  
Glenn Carowan*

Thelma became a volunteer at BNWR on September 25, 1996. She volunteered continuously for 13 years, beginning as a Visitor Center Volunteer behind the desk guiding visitors and tending the bookstore. When our headquarters asked for assistance she moved there to help with answering the phones and other secretarial duties with which she was very familiar. She worked there every Friday for years. During that time she would cut out articles from various newspapers when the Refuge was mentioned and set up a professionally done filing system for that material. In 1998 she was recognized for having accumulated 100 hours, 500 hours in 2000, 1,000 hours in 2001, 2,000 in 2002, 3,000 in 2005 and 4,000 in 2007.

She received a Presidential "TakePride In America" award signed by the President in 2007 for having volunteered over 4,000 hours. She also received the "Secretarial Take Pride in America Award" signed by the Secretary of the Interior in 2006. In addition to duties at the headquarters building, Thelma was consistently at hand for Refuge Open Houses where she loved

working with the children's activities.

Refuge staff remember her as a very unique, kind and generous person who approached her duties conscientiously and enthusiastically. She will be remembered by the staff and by visitors, Fed Ex and UPS drivers, for the ever-present cookies she provided, in addition to her bright personality and kind words. Glenn Carowan, past Manager and Suzanne Baird, present Manager particularly remember her for the bits of dark chocolate ("For the soul" she would say) to assist on days of difficulty.

An animal lover, Thelma loved both her indoor and outdoor cats and was always worrying about them. Although she had no children of her own, she treated staff members as if they were her children, caring about them all. An honest, loving Eastern Shore woman who enjoyed hunting with her late husband, Thelma is sorely and sadly missed.

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## **11th Annual Eagle Festival**

Mark your calendars now for the most popular event held at Blackwater year after year! On Saturday, March 12, 2011 the 11th Festival will be a wonderful experience for all ages between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. All events, including access to the Wildlife Drive, are free for the day. There will be an expert birder stationed along the Wildlife Drive to assist viewers in sighting eagles and other birds.

The day starts with an 8 o'clock bird walk led by long-time birder Terry Allen (meeting place to be determined; call the Visitor Center for final information.)

Several live animal programs will be available for your enjoyment and information including a peregrine falcon talk and flight demonstration with falconer Andrew Bullen, and a bald eagle demonstration by Mike Callahan from Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center. Both of these programs are extremely popular with our visitors. Other live birds of prey programs include

"Wings and Things" presented by a Maryland "Scales and Tales" Naturalist, and an owl program presented by the Carrie Murray Nature Center.

Children's activities will run from 10:30 am until 3:00 pm while supplies last. These include a "build your own" blue bird nest box; owl pellet exploration (always a winner with the kids); eagle puppet construction; make your own wildlife button; design your own wildlife t-shirt; and constructing an "edible eagle!" All puppet show attendees will receive a free Albert the Delmarva Fox Squirrel coloring book.

Further complementing your enjoyment of a day at the Refuge will be Native American flute music with Ron Warren and a photography workshop with wildlife photographer John Lore.

Perhaps one of the most eagerly anticipated events are the "Eagle Prowls". There will be three of these opportunities scheduled throughout the day with experienced volunteers and staff leading the search for bald eagles throughout the Refuge. Space will be limited so participants must register for the prowls on the day of the event.

Exhibitors include Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research as well as live birds of prey from the Carrie Murray Nature Center, Salisbury Zoo, and Raptor's Eye. Vendors will include Wild Birds Unlimited Optics and Kathy Boyle's award-winning Carvings & Jewelry. Food and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the day.

All of the programs and activities will take place in large heated tents located adjacent to the temporary Visitor Center along the Wildlife Drive. Don't miss out on this free event for the whole family! For more information, call the Visitor Center at **310-228-2677** or visit

**[www.fws.gov/blackwater](http://www.fws.gov/blackwater)**

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## **R 2011 Blackwater Spring Turkey Hunt**

The Refuge turkey hunt season will be held on Tuesdays and Saturdays during the April 19 to May 21, 2011 period. Beginning February 7 permit application packets may be picked up at the temporary Visitor Center located on the Wildlife Drive between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm weekdays and 9 am to 5 pm on weekends.

Applications accompanied by a \$10.00 administration fee will be accepted by **mail only** and must be received by March 11. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Friends of Blackwater. Permits will be drawn by lottery and each successful hunter will be selected for one day only.

Hunters wishing to qualify for the drawing hunt in Area B1 must provide a completed Blackwater NWR Physician Certification of Disability or a copy of an approved *Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife & Heritage Service Application for Permit to Hunt from a Vehicle*, along with the Turkey Hunt application.

In addition to the regular season, a Youth Turkey Hunt will be held on the Refuge on Saturday, April 16 for youth hunters 16 years or younger who must be accompanied by a licensed or exempt from licensed, non-hunting adult, 21 or older.

All hunting will follow Maryland State regulations and bag limits and all hunters must possess a valid Refuge hunting permit, a Maryland State hunting license and photo identification. A daily maximum of 14 hunters will be selected for each of the 11 turkey hunting days and scouting will only be permitted on the day before your hunt day from 5 am to sunset.

For further information or any questions, please contact the Blackwater NWR hunt coordinator at **410-228-5018**.

## **Visitor Center Temporarily Relocated**

Some time ago the Refuge Received approval to add a West Wing to the Visitor Center which, as most of you are aware, is located on Key Wallace Drive in Cambridge. The plan is for the new wing to provide additional rest rooms and a multi-purpose room which will assist the Refuge and Friends of Blackwater to expand their ability to provide additional programs which would be of interest to the community. At present, the VC as it is configured, is severely limited in terms of numbers of people it can accommodate.

Since this is major construction which could go on for the better part of a year it has been necessary to relocate to our Educational Building which is located just to the right past the self-pay kiosk at the entrance to the Wildlife Drive.



**TEMPORARY VISITOR CENTER**



**Planned Addition is to the right**



**Rear of the redesigned Visitor Center**

## **Fish and Wildlife Service Hires More Youth**

Tyler Hotten, 18, a high school senior in Underwood, North Dakota, got his wish this summer: a chance to work outdoors. After two months of mowing, weed trimming, goose banding and other labor at Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, he also came away with something more: an interest in a career in wildlife conservation. “If you like being outside, it’s the job for you,” he says.

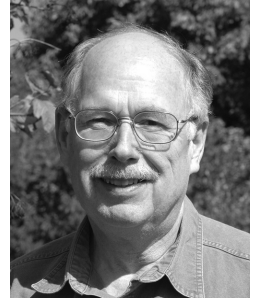
The Service increased youth employment more than 50 percent in fiscal year 2010, exceeding the Department of the Interior’s goals. The Service hired 2,434 people ages 15 to 25 to work on national wildlife refuges and other sites — up from 1,535 in 2009 and 515 more than the 2010 target of 1,919 set by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar’s “Youth in the Great Outdoors” program.

New employees included 771 hired through the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC); 551 through the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) and Student Career Experience Program (SCEP); and 254 through permanent and temporary positions.

The jobs were varied and often physically demanding. At Baca National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado, YCC crews removed 13 miles of barbed wire fence. At Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico a youth crew improved access for visitors with disabilities. At William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, YCCers helped build a boardwalk, maintain trails, install landscaping and hand-pull invasive English ivy, tansy ragwort and oxeye daisy. “It’s very labor-intensive, bending over in the heat, pulling plants up by the root,” says refuge biologist Jock Beall. “The idea is not to dig or disturb the soil because that causes more seeds to germinate.”

Finley Refuge YCC crew member Lexxs Sutton, 17, of Monroe, Oregon, agreed the work was hard. But, she added, “I learned a lot of things, and it was probably the most fun job I will ever have.”

# *F*rom the President's Desk...



*Marty O'Connor*

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the annual Blackwater Refuge's Eagle Festival will be held. This popular open house is a great time to view eagles, perhaps early ospreys, and the late waterfowl on the Refuge's marshes and open waters. This year it will be centered at the Environmental Education Building at the beginning of Wildlife Drive. It is also a very popular activity for volunteers to help with the various activities. So mark your calendars and plan to join us; we'll look forward to seeing you there.

I hope you've been watching the eagle camera. There are three eagle eggs on the nest and the first should hatch just after mid-February. The eggs were laid a couple of weeks earlier than usual and the three of them may lead to some interesting rivalries between the young eaglets. You can view them and follow their hatching and growth on the Friend's website [www.friendsofblackwater.org](http://www.friendsofblackwater.org). Also look at the osprey camera since the eagles frequently perch there while hunting for food.

Thanks to all who helped relocate the Eagle's Nest bookstore and visitor center to its temporary location at the Environmental Education Building, in particular to Charlotte and Wolfe Hehn who coordinated the move. It will be there until the construction at the main visitor center is completed toward the end of this year.

Merriam Brown is stepping down as secretary for the Friends of Blackwater but will remain on the Board. She has served for several years and we are very appreciative of her help. Maggie Briggs is replacing her as secretary.

This is an excellent time to come out to the Refuge and view the thousands of Canada geese, tundra swans, snow geese and the many types of ducks that make the Refuge their winter home. Golden eagles can occasionally be seen as well as other raptors and smaller birds. In January the Refuge participated in the nationwide annual eagle count and 189 were spotted. The bridge on route 335 had the highest count with 33 during the morning count and 75 during the late afternoon roosting count. So when you come out be sure to stop at the bridge.

We could use your help as a volunteer in several upcoming activities. The Eagle Festival will be on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and the educational program with the Dorchester County Public Schools will have about 330 6<sup>th</sup> graders here sometime in late March and early April as part of our ongoing cooperative program. Also the Visitor Center and the Eagle's Nest bookstore could also use volunteers. To learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities, please visit our websites or contact Michele Whitbeck, the Refuge's volunteer coordinator, at **410-901-6124** or [Michele\\_Whitbeck@fws.gov](mailto:Michele_Whitbeck@fws.gov). The website for the Friends of Blackwater is [www.friendsofblackwater.org](http://www.friendsofblackwater.org) and for the Blackwater NWR [www.fws.gov/blackwater](http://www.fws.gov/blackwater). If you are interested in becoming active with the Friends of Blackwater, please contact me by e-mail at [mfoconnor1@verizon.net](mailto:mfoconnor1@verizon.net). We are looking forward to working with you.

## Join Us...

Blackwater is among Maryland's most valuable natural resources, playing a significant role for migratory waterfowl and wildlife habitat and the quality of our lives. Your membership is essential to our educational and interpretive efforts on behalf of these important natural resources.

## Membership Benefits

- Newsletter and selected publications
- 10% discount at the Book/Gift shops at Blackwater, Bombay Hook, Prime Hook, Chincoteague, Heinz NWR at Tinicum, Eastern Shore, Eastern Neck and Patuxent Research Refuge
  - Membership Decal and Card
- Advance Program Announcements
  - Invitation to special events
- Voting Privileges at our annual meeting



## FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Under 18 Parental Approval \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership:** New Member  Renewal

**Choose one:** Individual \$15  Family \$20  Heron \$30  Falcon \$60

Eagle \$100  Sponsor \$250  Life \$1,000

Student \$5  (Elementary through High School)

Amex  Discover  Visa  MasterCard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include 3 digit number found on signature strip

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Friends of Blackwater

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