



FRIENDS FOR THE ABBOTT MARSHLANDS

Preservation * Advocacy * Education * Protection

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In Partnership with D&R Greenway Land Trust

August 9, 2018

Dear Friend of the Abbott Marshlands,

It's time for our annual appeal. We write to ask for your continuing financial and other support.

Your support promotes the important goals of:

- Protecting and preserving the natural, historical, and recreational resources of the Abbott Marshlands;
- Promoting research and actions that lead to enhanced stewardship; and
- Expanding education to develop public awareness and appreciation of the Abbott Marshlands.

Your support is essential. It enables the Friends to continue promoting and protecting this natural and historic treasure. You can participate in three important ways:

- I. **Contribute financially. Please donate via the Marshlands website (www.abbottmarshlands.org) or write a check (see address at the bottom).**
- II. **Attend educational programs** offered by the Friends and by the Tulpehaking Nature Center. Bring guests. Share your caring for the Marsh with a child! Please see the enclosed events schedule and join us. Details for the November trash pick up will be announced.
- III. **Volunteer.** The Marsh needs you. Volunteer to lead a walk along your favorite trail, help organize the herbarium (some knowledge of local plants would be useful, but not necessary), prepare PR for programs, etc. Help with an exhibit reception. Help with a trash pickup.

Membership levels:

Student / seniors (\$15) _____ Basic (\$25) _____ Family (\$40) _____
Donor (\$50) _____ Supporter (\$250) _____ Benefactor (\$500) _____

Each contribution, large and small, influences the programs we are able to provide. You will make a difference!

DURING THE PAST YEAR, MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS PROVIDED MONETARY SUPPORT FOR:

- The Abbott Marshlands website (www.abbottmarshlands.org).
- Abbott Marshlands Wetlands Award 2018. We are pleased to announce that Arian Elroy Rodriguez, a senior at Trenton Central High School, was the 2018 recipient of the Abbott Marshlands Wetlands Award. His project, 'Assunpink Creek Water Quality', was carried out in the nearby Assunpink watershed. The award goes to a project at the Mercer County Science and Engineering Fair that best addresses: wetland ecology, wetland organisms, wetland issues and/or was carried out at the Abbott Marshlands.
- Eagle Scout project (Nick Alpeza) at Roebling Park.
- Sponsorship of exhibits/ receptions at the Tulpehaking Nature Center, and program honoraria.
- Sponsorship: online course for part-time naturalist, participation in the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed annual forum.

A brief glimpse at 2017-2018 Marshlands activities and accomplishments:

SIGNS, SIGNS, SIGNS - The Abbott Marshlands Trail Signs project has been a major effort of the Friends and Marshlands owners. Before the end of summer, 15 signs will be installed that show trails found in Roebling Park, Northern Community Park, Bordentown Bluffs, and along the D&R Canal on Duck Island. There will also be signs at Bordentown beach, the I-295 Scenic Overlook, and the Light Rail station. These signs will enhance the experience of visitors as well as their understanding of our favorite marsh!

Funding came from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program through NJ DEP and from the PSEG Foundation. Additional support is provided by land owners, including Bordentown City, Bordentown Twp, Mercer County, NJ Division of Parks and Forestry, NJ DOT, NJ Transit, and by Friends for the Abbott Marshlands and D&R Greenway Land Trust. The project benefited greatly from the involvement of Patrick Harshbarger and other staff from Hunter Research. It could not have been accomplished without the generous contributions made by photographers, artists, and local experts.

There is an accompanying signs exhibit, *Days Out of Doors: Exploring the Abbott Marshlands*, at the Tulpehaking Nature Center. It's on view until Oct. 7th.

A trail volunteer program is being initiated. If you're interested in being an Abbott Marshlands Trail Steward, please let us know: info@abbottmarshlands.org. Some trails are already spoken for.

1ST SATURDAY WALKS. New this year is a series of 1st Saturday walks cosponsored by Robert Wood Johnson – Hamilton, Tulpehaking Nature Center, and D&R Canal State Park. Nearly 70 joined us for a recent walk on a perfect July morning! Objectives are to provide opportunities for visitors to discover the various parts of the Marshlands and for those hesitant to walk on their own to explore with a group.

PROGRAMS. As in the past, Friends offered field trips most months, as well as other programs, including two successful cleanups coordinated by our local Watershed Ambassador, Julia Galayda.

We celebrated World Rivers Day in September, held History Weekend in April, and celebrated May – American Wetlands Month. The Delaware River Sojourn 2018 paddlers, ~ 75, enjoyed a thunder-free day and mild weather on Crosswicks Creek on June 23rd. An additional 15 people came to 'Lunch 'n Learn' to hear about White City Amusement Park. While paddlers returned to Bordentown, the others enjoyed a walk to White City Mansion. 'Writing in the Wild' was a day-long workshop for teachers.

The Nature Center offers varied programs, including, e.g., Story Time for preschoolers, basic birding skills workshops for beginners, fishing, and Saturday & Sunday programs through the summer. These are supported by Friends as appropriate.

ABBOTT MARSHLANDS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: The Marshlands Council is beginning to plan for a stewardship plan update. Please send your ideas to info@abbottmarshlands.org.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. The Friends, in partnership with the TNC, offers The Abbott Marshlands Science Wetlands Award for an outstanding project at the Mercer County Science Fair. Please bring this to the attention of high school students and teachers you know.

Friends for the Abbott Marshlands are grateful to all who have contributed time or other support to caring for the Abbott Marshlands. We take this opportunity to thank all who helped,

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the Marsh!

Sincerely,

The Friends Executive Committee -

Suzy Abbott * Barbara Bleeker * Gerrit Bleeker * Carol Brown * Pat Coleman *
Madeline Emde * Charles Fisher * Mary Leck * Amy Martin * Pat Sziber *
Kay Widmer * Judy Winkler *

Liaisons: Mercer County Planning Department - Lisa Fritzinger

Mercer County Park Commission - Kelly Rypkema

Advisors: Linda Mead, Jenn Rogers



*Friends for the Marsh came into existence in 2002 as a project of D&R Greenway Land Trust, an independent not-for-profit 501(c)(3). **Your check made out to “Friends for the Abbott Marshlands / D&R Greenway Land Trust” guarantees your tax-deductible contribution will directly support the Abbott Marshlands.***

Correspondence: Friends for the Abbott Marshlands, c/o D&R Greenway Land Trust
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