

The Marsh Wren

SINCE 1976

THE FRIENDS OF DYKE MARSH

WINTER 2020



FODM Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, March 1, at 2:00 p.m., Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parker's Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306. Meeting is free and all are welcome to attend.

2020 FODM Meetings

March 1, 2 p.m., May 19, 7:30 p.m. and October 7, 7:30 p.m.

Calendar of Events

Sunday morning bird walks are held every Sunday at 8 a.m.. See calendar on p. 7 and website at fodm.org for upcoming events and details.

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Peregrine Falcon Restoration Program

Restoring Peregrine Falcons to Virginia's Mountains

Join the Friends on Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 2 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Government Center to hear Rolf Gubler, a biologist at Shenandoah National Park, who since 2000 has led the park's Peregrine Falcon Restoration Program, a partnership of the National Park Service (NPS), the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), William and Mary College's Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Biologists bring at-risk peregrine falcon chicks from eastern Virginia bridge nest sites to Virginia's mountains, once part of the birds' historic range. The team hopes the birds will imprint on the park's cliffs and return as breeding adults. This cooperative project serves the dual purpose of boosting mountain peregrine populations and aiding in the survival of bridge nest peregrine chicks where fledging is often difficult due to insufficient updrafts.



Peregrine falcons are being restored to Virginia's mountains. Photo by USFWS

Peregrines perch and nest on cliffs, skyscrapers, towers and other tall structures. A peregrine has nested on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in recent years. In Virginia, people have seen nesting peregrines on the Route 301-Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay Bridges. Peregrines have nested on Richmond's

MEETING (continued on page 7)

First Phase of Dyke Marsh Restoration Project is Complete

BY GLENDA BOOTH

Good news! The first phase of Dyke Marsh restoration, construction of the breakwater and sill, is complete. The U.S Geological Survey study identified building a breakwater to replicate the former protective promontory as a priority. The Park Service says it would "redirect erosive flows in the marsh, particularly during strong storms and would re-establish hydrologic conditions that would encourage sediment accretion."

National Park Service officials report that they are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to design and model the next phase and will seek an-

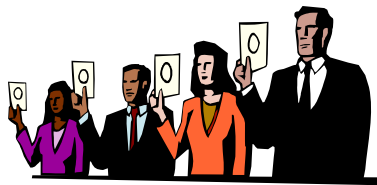


The completed breakwater replicates a protective promontory that dredgers removed. Photo by Glenda Booth

other permit from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

Annual Meeting and Election on March 1

The FODM March 1 quarterly meeting will also be FODM's annual meeting. We will elect new officers and members of the Board of Directors. The proposed nominees, all of whom have agreed to serve are listed below. Other nominations can be considered at the meeting.



We have included in the paper copies of the Marsh Wren a proxy form for establishing a quorum and voting at the meeting if a member cannot attend. The form includes instructions for completing and returning it by February 16. For those who receive the newsletter by email, we will send you a separate email with the proxy and instructions. You can reply by email. Be sure to send your proxy if you cannot attend.

Officers and Board of Directors Nominees - Glenda Booth, President, Dixie Sommers, Vice President, Dorothy McManus, Secretary, Patricia Salamone, Treasurer. Members: Bob Veltkamp, Deborah Hammer and David F. Barbour, with Ed Eder, Past President. **New Nominees:** Jim Gearing - Jim grew up with wet sneakers in Jacksonville, Florida, in, near and on the St. Johns River and its creeks, exploring the area's swamps. His professional career was in computer software. He has lived in New Alexandria for 25 years and sails and kayaks on the Potomac. He has volunteered for trash cleanups, Raptor Rapture, English ivy control along the Parkway and for Dyke Marsh invasive plant pulls and native plantings.

Meg Jonas - Meg is a hydraulic engineer, retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where she worked on

ELECTION (continued on page 7)

"Finding Aid" for FODM Records Now Online

BY LAURA WICKSTEAD, Virginia Room Librarian

The Fairfax City Regional Library's Virginia Room now has a finding aid to access some of FODM's records and important documents.



A finding aid describes the history, scope and content of a manuscript collection, similar to a book's table of contents. It directs readers to content within, but is not the content. To access the finding aid, key in Friends of Dyke Marsh at <https://vaheritage.org>.

FODM donated some of our historic records in July 2019, materials that occupy 6.0 linear feet of shelf space and span the years 1948 to 2019. They consist of correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, newsletters, newspaper clippings, photographs and promotional materials. Subjects include the history of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve and FODM, scientific studies and the conservation of Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve.

To learn more about local history collections in the Virginia Room, visit <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/local-history>. These guides, lists, indexes and inventories direct researchers to the Virginia Room which holds the content in a variety of formats. Explore these resources for Dyke Marsh and other local history topics: Manuscript Collections (MSS #05-72, Friends of Dyke Marsh Records), Photograph Collections, Historical Newspaper Index, Subject Files (VF - Parks - U.S. National Park Service - Dyke Marsh) and "Researching the History of Your Fairfax County Property," under Local History Bibliographies. You can reach me at laura.wickstead@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-293-6227 x6.

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Visit our website at
www.fodm.org
or on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/fodm.org)

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



President's Message

Glenda C. Booth, President, Friends of Dyke Marsh

Volunteering can enhance your well-being, promote mental and physical health, give you a sense of accomplishment, connect you with others and in Dyke Marsh, strengthen the integrity of the preserve. Volunteers are the heart and soul of FODM. On January 11, Bernie Krell and Colin Surovell re-installed our sign at the native plant site which had been mysteriously knocked down. On December 12, FODM and the Park Service partnered with a new Fairfax County pilot program that brought nine enthusiastic homeless people to the Potomac shoreline for a trash cleanup, who with four FODMers, filled 13 trash bags.



Colin Surovell and Bernie Krell re-installed the sign at our native plant site. Photo by Glenda Booth

Our very able butterfly-dragonfly volunteer team completed its fourth season of surveys. They have recorded up to 23 butterfly and 30 dragonfly and damselfly species, many of which were previously unknown to exist in Dyke Marsh. Their work helps educate people about habitat conservation and the value of native plants and can guide NPS in managing the preserve. Jessica Strother and Jim Waggener, FODM team leaders, have prepared a poster on their work for an April, NPS research symposium. Thank you all for your work.

And we send a big thank you to many generous donors who express their support with their checkbooks. You can donate by check, on our website and via Amazon purchases. Every amount helps.

The first phase of Dyke Marsh restoration is completed (see page one), the breakwater and sill construction in the south marsh. We look forward to seeing the plans and helping move the next phase. The U.S. Geological Survey con-

cluded that Dyke Marsh is eroding from 1.5 to two acres a year on average and will be completely gone by 2035 without action because 32 years of dredging destabilized the whole system. Thankfully, the decision-makers care and at least what's left of Dyke Marsh hopefully will be saved.



A Ross's Goose sighting was a new record for the GW Memorial Parkway. Photo by Ed Eder

Exciting Sighting

A bobcat was photographed on November 9 along the C&O Canal in Washington, D.C., according to the Washington Post. We've had no known bobcats, but some excitement nevertheless. Several people spotted a Ross's goose (*Anser rossii*) in early January and George Washington Memorial Parkway officials say it was a new record. These birds nest in the low Arctic tundra, 95 percent of them in the central Canadian Arctic's Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Keep observing and reporting.

Every day seems to bring disturbing conservation news – the biodiversity collapse, the insect apocalypse, a hotter planet and now massive declines in bird populations. The National Audubon Society has released a major report finding that two-thirds of North American birds are at risk of extinction because of global temperature rise. At their website (<https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>), you can put in a zip code for local predictions. For 22308, for example, it says that “highly and moderately vulnerable birds may lose more than half of their current range – the geographic area where they live – as they are forced to search for suitable habitat and climate conditions elsewhere.” The report also identifies locally vulnerable species. Hopefully, our work and Dyke Marsh restoration will restore some habitat and provide stronger support for birds, other wildlife and plants.

Spring will bring renewal outdoors and we invite you to our activities, including our Raptor Rapture, the Potomac River cleanup, a bat survey, a bat walk and talk, invasive plant control, Sunday bird walks, a May 20 program on wetlands ecology and more. See our calendar, website and Facebook page.

Glenda C. Booth

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

Honor the Red Salamander

You can now buy a Virginia license plate featuring the red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*) and support the state's wildlife and habitat conservation work. Recommended by the Salamander Savers, a Fairfax County 4-H club, this salamander was chosen for its beautiful coloration, widespread distribution and a way to educate people about a rarely seen animal.

The Results of the 2018 Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey

BY LARRY CARTWRIGHT, BBS Survey Coordinator

The 2018 Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey was conducted between Saturday, May 26 and Wednesday, July 4, but any data collected outside of this period that confirmed a breeding species was entered into the database. This permitted us to filter out most migrants that do not use the marsh or surrounding habitat to breed. I also included information provided from the Sunday morning walks and reliable individuals to supplement data reported by the survey teams. The survey tract encompasses the Belle Haven picnic area, the marina, the open marsh, that portion of the Big Gut known as West Dyke Marsh that extends from the George Washington Memorial Parkway west to River Towers, the Potomac River from the shoreline to the channel, and the surrounding woodland from the mouth of Hunting Creek to south of Morningside Lane.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on nest. Photo by Jane Gamble

either were colonial breeding waterbird species not using a rookery inside the survey tract or migrants still moving through northern Virginia to breeding areas further north.

Those who have visited Dyke Marsh during the summer or have read these yearly breeding bird survey reports are aware of the plight of the Marsh Wren. The Marsh Wren is a fairly common breeder, especially along coastal areas, in the mid-Atlantic region. However, Marsh Wren numbers at Dyke Marsh declined over 15 years, and the species ceased to be a breeder after 2014. The breeding season of 2014 was the last time that volunteers at Dyke Marsh documented multiple active nests. In 2015 and 2016, a handful of Marsh Wrens appeared in the north marsh, with perhaps two or three males briefly establishing territory, but we could not confirm breeding. During 2017, a canoe team on June 25 spotted a Marsh Wren carrying nesting material. A later survey team found three nests, one of which contained interior lining normally placed in an active nest by a female. A male was observed close to the nest, and I determined that this situation was enough to confirm breeding.

The breeding bird survey methodology uses behavioral criteria to determine the breeding status of each species that is recorded in the survey tract. Species are placed into one of four categories: confirmed breeder, probable breeder, possible breeder, and present. We identified 65 species at Dyke Marsh during 2018. There were 38 confirmed breeding species, 6 probable breeders, and 16 possible breeders. An additional 5 species were listed as present, but ei-

Unfortunately, our 2018 survey teams found no Marsh Wren nests, either active ones with attending females or dummy nests built by males to attract females. All we located was a solitary male that briefly set up a territory north of the Haul Road peninsula for approximately two weeks in May and another lone male singing from the marsh vegetation in the Big Gut in the south marsh on July 1. Volunteers neither saw nor heard additional Marsh Wrens in 2018, and with no evidence of breeding, the species once again lost its confirmed breeding status.

Least Bittern numbers appeared down in 2018 compared to the previous year and it was difficult even to find them by canoe. Four birds were seen on one trip in the Big Gut on July 4, but none appeared to be paired. During the 2018 survey, we found only one likely breeding pair located in the Narrowleaf Cattails near the boardwalk at the end of the Haul Road peninsula. Subsequent searches yielded no fledged young and for the second straight year volunteers were unable to confirm Least Bittern as a breeder.

I stated in last year's report that Least Bitterns seemed to have withdrawn from the southern half of the Big Gut at Dyke Marsh, primarily because of erosion, and were concentrating their activities north of that point. In 2017 an impressive nine birds were recorded during one June day by three survey teams. Five of these birds, consisting of two pairs and a solitary individual, were in the north marsh and the remaining four were in the upper portion of the Big Gut. Volunteers found no birds in the lower Big Gut during the entire 2017 survey. The same distribution of Least Bitterns at Dyke Marsh repeated itself in 2018, but there were fewer birds.

The 2018 survey also shows that while some songbird species are successfully maintaining their populations in the wooded area adjacent to the marsh, others are possibly starting to decline. Great Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, Warbling Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and Orchard Orioles continue to do well as we easily found high



Only one male Marsh Wren set up a territory in this year's survey. Photo by Ed Eder



Least Bittern numbers were down and were difficult to spot this year. Photo by Ed Eder

SURVEY (continued on page 5)

SURVEY (continued from page 4)

individual numbers, nests, and fledged young for these species. For example, a high count for Warbling Vireos was 11 during a June 18 survey. Prothonotary Warblers also seem stable for now, primarily in the south marsh where there are enough cavities which they use for nesting.

Yellow Warblers and Baltimore Orioles may present a different story. Yellow Warbler nests usually can be found



Eastern Kingbird on nest.
Photo by Carol Stalun

between the dogleg and the boardwalk at the end of the Haul Road peninsula. Although one volunteer observed a female carrying nesting material in early May, we uncovered no Yellow Warbler nests or saw any fledged young throughout the rest of the survey, a truly odd occurrence.

As for Baltimore Orioles, volunteers in 2018 tallied only one or two Baltimore Orioles per survey compared to up to six individual Orchard Orioles. In previous years, numbers for the two oriole species have been roughly equal. Nonetheless, we documented two Baltimore Oriole nests and in mid-July, saw an adult feeding a fledged youngster, so despite lower individual numbers, the species remains a confirmed breeder.

The truly puzzling species are the Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, and Northern Parula, all common species in the mid-Atlantic States. Eastern Wood-Pewees, Acadian Flycatchers, and Red-eyed Vireos showed up at Dyke Marsh in May and June as they normally do, and we expected them to establish territories. Surprisingly, it appears that none did. A territory is defined as being established when a singing male is found at the same location after a week. None of the males were found near the same spot on additional surveys as when they were initially identified, and none appeared to be present anywhere at Dyke Marsh after mid-June. And the Northern Parula? The first one wasn't even identified until Independence Day, and this bird was probably a post-breeder arriving

from outside Dyke Marsh.

So, what is happening to these songbirds? Some species such as the Baltimore Oriole seem to be pushing its range north, so perhaps fewer are staying to breed in the mid-Atlantic. For other songbird species, a possible explanation is the death of all the Pumpkin Ash at Dyke Marsh. As the ash died along the periphery of the marsh, the defoliated trees left nests more exposed to predators like crows and brood parasites like Brown-headed Cowbirds. This explanation does not provide a reason why some species continue to prosper while others appear more vulnerable, but it merits consideration. Additional surveys may provide answers.

Ospreys built seven nests in 2018. Bald Eagles disrupted Osprey nesting attempts on Dyke and Coconut Islands in 2017 and Ospreys did not try to build nests on either island in 2018. There also was no nesting attempt on Bird Island because the nest tree toppled over during the previous winter. Dyke Marsh did gain a new nest in 2018, but it was a rather pathetic affair. An apparent inexperienced Osprey attempted to construct a nest in a tree in the parking lot of the marina, but nesting material fell faster from the nest than the bird could replace it. The bird finally gave up and resumed construction in the woods adjacent to the south picnic area. This nest held firm when completed, but by that time it may have been too late in the year to produce young.



Adult Bald Eagle with nestling at Haul Road nest. Photo by Ed Eder

This nest and another along the shoreline of the river east of the Big Gut were the only Osprey nest failures of 2018. The remaining five nests, including the now extremely popular one on the platform near the boat launch at the marina, fledged from one to three young.

Bald Eagles were highly successful during the 2018 breeding season. The Haul Road Bald Eagle pair, in its first breeding season, produced a single nestling that successful-

SURVEY (continued on page 6)

The 2018 Breeding Bird Survey Results

Confirmed - 38 Species: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Mourning Dove, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, House Sparrow, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

Probable - 6 Species: Least Bittern, Pileated Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting.

Possible - 16 Species: American Black Duck, Wild Turkey, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Parula.

Present - 5 Species: Caspian Tern, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Magnolia Warbler.

Maureen Joseph Joins GWMP



Maureen Joseph.
Photo by NPS

FODM welcomes Maureen Joseph as the new Chief of Resource Management for the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). She comes to the Parkway from the National Park Service's (NPS) National Capital Region (NCR) where she was the Cultural Landscapes Program Manager for the last 22 years. At NCR, she led the preparation of cultural resource documents that serve as model projects for other NPS units.

Prior to joining NCR, she was a landscape architect with NPS's Denver Service Center and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Maureen has authored or co-authored numerous cultural landscape studies for several national parks including Acadia, Antietam, Arches, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Harpers Ferry, Manassas and Rock Creek Park. She served as the project lead and co-author for the Lincoln Memorial Grounds and Dumbarton Oaks Park Cultural Landscape reports. A licensed landscape architect, Maureen has a Bachelor of Science degree in landscape architecture from Colorado State University. Welcome Maureen!

FODM FY 2020 Budget

Here is our FY 2020 Budget, for your information. If you have any questions, please contact FODM President Glenda Booth at (703) 765-5233 or email info@fodm.org.

Total projected income	\$ 10,065
Dues	\$ 6,000
Donations	\$ 4,000
Amazon Smile	\$ 65
Total projected expenses: Ongoing operations	\$ 7,181
Marsh Wren newsletter	
Printing	\$ 2,000
Mailing	\$ 300
Program and meeting expenses	
Speaker honoraria & expenses	\$ 700
Meeting room rental	\$ 300
Refreshments/supplies	\$ 150
Insurance	\$ 1,401
Membership expenses	
PayPal fees	\$ 150
Website expenses	
Web hosting	\$ 1,200
Annual SSL certificate fee	\$ 150
Annual email renewal	\$ 40
Education and outreach	
Virginia Conservation Network Membership	\$ 100
Virginia Natural History Society membership	\$ 40
Participation in Nat'l Capital Region Partnership Summit	\$ 50
Administrative expenses	
PO box rental	\$ 145
VDACS annual registration fee	\$ 30
Annual registration with Va. State Corporation Commission	\$ 25
President's administrative expenses	\$ 400
Total projected expenses: Special projects	\$ 1,000.00
Two Chronolog citizen science monitoring stations	\$ 200
Printing of butterfly checklist	\$ 800
Total projected expenses	\$ 8,181.00

Yet Another Invasive Insect, the Spotted Lanternfly

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) (SLF) has been observed in Frederick County and Winchester, Virginia, not in National Capital Area national parks so far, according to National Park Service (NPS) officials. It is a non-native insect, a planthopper in the order Hemiptera. Dorothy Borowy wrote in the 2019 issue of NPS's Natural Resource Quarterly, "Once established in an area, SLF has the potential to dramatically affect forest ecosystems, agricultural production and cultural resources. Although SLF has a preference for feeding on the exotic tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), it is an indiscriminate pest and will feed on over 70 different plant species. It impacts its host directly by extracting plant sap from young leaves and stems using piercing and sucking mouthparts, and causes indirect harm by excreting a sugary liquid (honeydew) that attracts other insects and promotes the proliferation of black sooty mold, which can negatively affect plant growth and initiate secondary fungal infections." For more, visit <https://www.nps.gov/articles/spotted-lanternfly-101.htm>. We are not aware that it is in Dyke Marsh.



Spotted Lanternfly.
Penn State Extension

SURVEY (continued from page 5)

ly fledged by June 10. Further south, the Bald Eagle pair occupying the nest just south of Tulane Drive fledged three young and the Morningside Lane nesting pair fledged at least one young. Bald Eagles have been nesting for a decade at Dyke Marsh and there is now no doubt that the species is an established breeder.

The Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey has a host of wonderful citizen-scientist volunteers whose efforts make the survey possible. The Friends of Dyke Marsh and I as the compiler are grateful to all who volunteer time and expertise to gather essential data. Those who contributed to the 2018 Breeding Bird Survey are listed below.

In alphabetical order, they are: Mercedes Alpizar, Andy Bernick, Eldon Boes, Ashley Bradford, Ed Eder, Jane Gamble, Lori Keeler, Elizabeth Ketz-Robinson, Todd Kiraly, Larry Meade, Roger Miller, Gary Myers, Nick Nichols, Marc Ribaldo, Don Robinson, Laura Sebastianelli, Kimber-



Fledged juvenile from Bald Eagle nest on Haul Road.
Photo by Jane Gamble

SURVEY (continued on page 7)

SURVEY (continued from page 6)

ly Sharp, Phil Silas, Robert Smith, Dixie Sommers, Carol Stalun, Sherman Suter, John Symington, Margaret Wohler, Katherine Wychulis, William Young.

Larry Cartwright

Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey Coordinator

Editor's Note: The author is still compiling the data and working on the report for the 2019 Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey, to appear in a future issue of the Wren.

MEETING (continued from page 1)

Riverfront Plaza building and on the 33rd-floor ledge of Baltimore's Transamerica skyscraper.

Peregrine falcons were used for hunting or falconry as early as 2000 B.C. in China and Egypt. In World War II, both the British/U.S. and the German armies had a falcon corps to intercept the opponent's homing pigeons. Peregrines are found in rural and urban environments and on every continent except Antarctica.

This meeting, free to all, will be at the Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Cosponsors are the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, the Northern Virginia Bird Club and the Virginia Ornithology Society. FODM will host an informal reception starting at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

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

Welcome New FODM Members

FODM welcomes our **new members** Kathy Ansell, Bob Butterworth, Lillian Chang, Sandra Farkas, Ross Furbush, Luisa Gallagher, James Kelly, Alfred Beech & Genevieve Kenney, Bernie Krell, Toni Oliviera, Daniel Rosenfeld, Katrina Van Duyn and Gary Weeden. Welcome **new Life Members** Thomas L. Blackburn and Joan Mashburn.

Calendar of Events



April 18 - Trash Cleanup, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Check in at Haul Road entrance or Belle Haven Park.

April 25 - Raptor Rapture, 10 a.m. to 12 n., Belle Haven Park.

April 26 - City Nature Challenge, Bat Survey, 8 p.m. Acoustic monitoring of bats in Dyke Marsh. Meet at Haul Road Trail.

May 9 - Moonlight Bat Walk and Talk, 8 p.m. Join Deborah Hammer in west Dyke Marsh to learn about and listen to local bats. Meet at River Towers Condo, 6631 Wakefield Drive.

May 19 - Wetland Ecology, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Christian Jones of George Mason University will give a presentation on wetlands at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor's Ctr. Social at 7 p.m.

June 6 - Ecology Walk, 10 a.m. Join biologist and naturalist Charles Smith for an ecology walk at the Haul Road entrance.

ELECTION (continued from page 2)

flood risk reduction, hydraulic modeling, sediment transport, erosion, ecosystem restoration and other areas. She grew up in Mount Vernon's Hollin Hills community and lives in River Towers. She is especially interested in watershed issues affecting Dyke Marsh.

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

FODM Membership - Dues and Contributions

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

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

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP ____
TELEPHONE NUMBER _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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

Cedar Waxwings

On December 10, 2019, FOD-Mer Ed Eder took these magnificent photographs of cedar waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) in Dyke Marsh feeding on the red berries of a non-native Asian cherry tree. Cornell University's "All about Birds" reports, "In fall, these birds gather by the hundreds to eat berries, filling the air with their high, thin whistles."

Mature cedar waxwings have a prominent crest, black "mask," brown head and chest, pale yellow



belly and bright yellow tip on their tails. Some have red tips on the secondaries of the wings. They are around seven inches long and weigh about one ounce. They like woodlands, but with more ornamental berry trees in landscaped environments, they are increasingly common in towns and suburbs. Native plants with small fruits like dogwood, serviceberry, cedar, juniper, hawthorn and winterberry might attract them.



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Marsh Wren**

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