

## Update on our new headquarters building

We are pleased to report that we have received permission to begin construction of our new headquarters, have hired a builder and have begun demolition! This is a sad occasion because of the numerous wonderful memories attached to the cabin. But, we look forward to the new building to provide better office space and living quarters for our onsite manager, a critical person in keeping the Refuge and its inhabitants safe from harm. If you have not already contributed to this important project, we urge you to do so now. **We are still in need of funds to ensure that the construction continues without interruptions.** If you have already donated, we thank you for your help!

## Refuge is seeking a residential onsite manager

After providing the Refuge with exceptional service, our manager, Michael, sadly had to leave us at the end of August. As a result, we are once again in need of a manager. This is a rewarding and challenging position for a responsible and self-motivated individual who is deeply interested in nature and wildlife and maintaining land as protected natural habitat. Preference will be for a person who is at least a vegetarian and who has practical experience with wildlife or some academic training so that they are knowledgeable about wildlife in general. The manager lives onsite in provided, free accommodations (soon to be in our new headquarters building), including utilities. The diversity of animals and plants provides a rich visual treat for wildlife enthusiasts. The voices of coyotes, eagles, foxes, frogs, owls and many more can be heard throughout the day and evening.

## Refuge appoints new Trustee to Council

Leor Veleanu has been appointed as a fifth Trustee on our Council, all volunteers who oversee the mission of the Refuge. Leor is an attorney dedicated to protecting the rights of all species, including human and non-human animals. He is passionate about photographing wildlife, especially birds, and has been a vegan for over two decades. See some of his photos below.



## Students and teachers help Refuge with trash cleanup

We were excited when Courtney Nicholson, a teacher at Delsea Regional Middle School in Franklinville (NJ), reached out to us about students volunteering at the Refuge. She stated that there were about 60 students who wanted to do something for the community. It just so happened that we were in the process of deciding on how to deal with all the trash some members of the public had dumped in the area surrounding "Joe's garage", a part of the Refuge easily accessible, but relatively remote. After explaining the situation to Courtney and pointing out that this would be a lot of work involving a great variety of



trash, she readily agreed that this was something for which the students would volunteer. So, on a Thursday in July, two busloads of students and teachers arrived at Joe's garage and spent hours searching for and removing several tons of trash. After they were done, we took them to Miller Pond for a much-deserved rest and relaxation period observing wildlife. We are grateful to these students and teachers and their commitment to the community in general and to the Refuge in particular. We can always use volunteer help, whether you are a student, teacher, Scout or represent another community group. Contact us for more information.



## Can you spare some time to help protect wildlife?

With various hunting 'seasons' starting in NJ, we are seeking volunteers to help patrol the Refuge. If you have some spare time and would like to protect wildlife by patrolling with us, please contact us: 856.697.3541 or [info@unexpectedwildliferefuge.org](mailto:info@unexpectedwildliferefuge.org).



## Keep saying NO to bear hunting in New Jersey

We need to keep up the pressure. Gov Phil Murphy promised to put an end to bear hunting, but has not fulfilled this assurance. Please continue to contact Gov Murphy and politely urge him to prohibit bear hunting on all land in NJ: Governor's Office, 125 W State St, Trenton, NJ 08608; telephone: 609.292.6000; Tweet: @GovMurphy #savenjbears (photo iStock)



## Outlaw wildlife killing contests in New Jersey

Arizona recently banned wildlife killing contests and bills to ban these cruel events (in which participants compete to kill the greatest number of a single species, including coyotes, foxes, raccoons and squirrels) are pending in New York, Massachusetts, Oregon, California and New Jersey. If you are a NJ resident and have not yet done so, we urgently need your help to pass a bill that would prohibit wildlife killing contests in NJ: Write to your state legislators (Assembly and Senate) and politely urge them to vote YES on S3541/A5224. If you do not live in New Jersey, please write the legislators in your state and urge them to introduce legislation to ban killing contests. (photo Change.org)



## Refuge history subject of an article in SoJourn

A delightful first-hand account of the history of Unexpected Wildlife Refuge by Dr Ned Buyukmihci, President and Secretary, has been published in *SoJourn* 3.2 Winter 2018/19. The article -- Unexpected Wildlife Refuge: Haven for South Jersey Wildlife -- contains photographs and anecdotes about our unique and fascinating protected habitat, home to endangered and threatened wildlife in South Jersey, like the barred owl pictured here (courtesy Bernie Hehl).



## Eastern painted turtle found crossing our driveway

While volunteering at the Refuge, Trustee Dave Sauder came across this adult turtle walking along our lane near the main pond. Judging from the sand coating her hind end, we are guessing she was just heading back to the pond after laying a clutch of eggs. The few times we have seen any species of turtle in the process of laying eggs, it has been when they had chosen a trail as their site. Unfortunately, we never seemed to have a camera handy...



## New Trustee enjoys the richness of a Refuge spring

Leor Veleanu, our newest Trustee, is an avid wildlife photographer, particularly of birds. He recently visited the Refuge and stated: "When I got out of the car, two eastern wood pewees were singing and responding to each other. As expected, I heard more bird species than I saw. The most persistent bird song was that of the ovenbird, audible everywhere. The highlight was a pair of prothonotary warblers." (like one at left) He also saw a Baltimore oriole, eastern kingbirds, ruby-throated hummingbirds and several phoebes (like one at upper right). We hope to provide more of Leor's photos in future newsletters.





### Red-spotted purple butterfly



The red-spotted purple butterfly has a variety of wing patterns, an evolution of mimicry. When the pattern involves the presence of striking white bands, people call these individuals white admirals. It is believed that those individuals who are designated the red-spotted purple, like the one we saw recently (see photos), developed their pattern in order to mimic the pipevine butterfly. The latter is poisonous to their predators.



### Common garter snake ventures out

This common garter snake (the eastern subspecies) hid underneath this ramp when approached. After several minutes, he peaked out to see if the coast was clear, checking all around him. Although these snakes can grow up to four feet long, the ones we see at the Refuge are usually less than two feet. The saliva of this species is purported to be toxic to the small animals upon whom they prey. People, however, are at no risk whatsoever. One of the Trustees used to regularly handle these snakes when he was younger (and let them go) and has been bitten many times. He stated, "Although slightly irritating, their bites are of no consequence. The odor of the fluid they expel as a defense is far worse an 'affront' to one's sensibilities."



### Eastern cottontail rabbit wanders near headquarters

We never get tired of seeing the rabbits who take advantage of the food and shelter on offer at the Refuge. This individual was seen in the area between our cabin and the main pond. She stood still long enough to be photographed, then turned, seemingly to allow a different perspective for our files or maybe to show us what appear to be ticks attached to the inside of her left ear.



### Groundhogs 'invade' headquarters

We been watching a family of groundhogs, also known as woodchucks and other names, who have taken up residence near the cabin. The babies ('chucklings') leave the burrow to browse, always with a parent guardian close by. The closeup photo shows the large teeth typical of these rodents. Excellent burrowers, the dens created by groundhogs later become the homes of other mammals such as foxes or rabbits. This family will have moved on before the cabin replacement begins.



### Beavers continue to thrive at the Refuge

We have found three more beaver lodges along a major stream at the Refuge and have been seeing beavers regularly in both large ponds. The beaver pictured here is literally surrounded by what she would consider food. Beavers make almost complete use of the yellow water lily: flowers, leaves and rhizomes. Not in the picture is pickerelweed, whose seeds and rootstocks are a favorite food source not only for beavers, but also for muskrats and waterfowl.



### Slime molds at the Refuge

The term 'slime mold' refers to a group of unrelated organisms that can live freely as single cells, but can mass together to form multicellular reproductive structures. The scrambled egg slime (photo), also known as dog vomit slime mold or flowers of tan, is just one of many we see regularly at the Refuge.



### Reminiscing: Trustee Janet Romano recalls patrolling

"Every December, when I would head out to the cabin to patrol during 'deer season', I did so with mixed emotions.



The reason for my presence was serious -- innocent lives were at risk. On the other hand, I knew I would get to see my dear friend, Hope, as well as other animal-friendly people, some of whom became lifelong friends. Everyone would bring a delicious vegetarian meal or dessert to share. After spending several hours out in the field, we would head back to the cabin for a break, something to eat and to warm up from the frigid temperatures. Then we would grab our 'walkie talkies' (no cell phones then!) and head back out. Although I knew that animals not at the Refuge were being killed as I patrolled, I took comfort in the fact that my presence helped in some small way to protect others."

### Reminiscing: Trustee Nedim Buyukmihci on growing up at the Refuge

"I was fortunate to spend part of my childhood living at the Refuge," says Ned, son of Hope and Cavit, co-founders.



He has always had a strong affinity for snakes and the Refuge provided him with many opportunities to study these fascinating reptiles. He recalls an encounter with two northern water snakes: "I came across a male over 3 feet long. I had found a recently dead small bass and placed the fish near the snake. Within seconds, he (the snake) approached the fish. Just as he was about to grab the fish, a large female water snake, similar to photo, came up and quickly started eating the fish." Although Ned greatly enjoyed all his encounters with snakes, he is quick to point out that interfering with wildlife in this way is not necessarily in their best interests.

### Correction

In our Spring 2019 newsletter, we mislabeled a photo of a black vulture as a turkey vulture. Here is a photo of a black vulture family who took up residence in the old barn near our headquarters.



### Helping wildlife and Unexpected Wildlife Refuge today

The Refuge is home and sanctuary for hundreds of animal and plant species, some highly endangered, and ensures them the best chance possible for survival. We depend on the support of our donors to keep the Refuge safe. We – and the wildlife – could not exist without you. May we rely on your continued support? A donation today – no matter how small – will help us to continue our important work and secure the future of the Refuge. We care for these 767 acres with a very small operating budget, a paid staff of one and a voluntary Council of Trustees.



### Helping wildlife and the Refuge in the future

Please remember Unexpected Wildlife Refuge when planning your will and estate. It is an easy, effective and lasting way to help the Refuge... and wildlife. Provide your estate planner with our name, address and tax identification number (23-7025010). This is one of the most important gifts the Refuge can receive. If you have already included us in your future plans, thank you!

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### Unexpected Wildlife Refuge

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