

MARSH MUSINGS

The latest news and updates from Friends of Heinz Refuge

Friends of Heinz Refuge Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2024

Our Mission

“FOHR” is a non-profit charitable organization working in partnership with John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge to connect people with nature and promote a culture of environmental stewardship through education, outreach, service, and nature-based recreation for the conservation of wildlife and habitat.”

(Revised 2/20/14)

Message from our President



Mary Batt
President FOHR

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we begin a new year, 2025, I want to thank you for your support of the Friends of Heinz Refuge (FOHR) and the activities we help underwrite at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (JHNWR). Our supporters are instrumental in helping us maintain open space, wildlife recreation, outdoor recreation, and educational programs at the Refuge. All the programs and services at the Refuge are provided free of charge to the public, and the support of FOHR, and you is crucial. FOHR provides support for programs that

educate both the public and school aged children, restore critical areas of the Refuge, clean litter, and plastic pollution. In addition, we hosted or sponsored many community events this year including: Spooktacular, Groundhog Day, Earth Day Darby Creek Clean-up, Summer Solstice, Fall River Fest, and our annual photo contest "Nature in Focus." We continue to help underwrite the cost of the Refuge's flagship education program, Philly Nature Kids (PNK), participated in the first annual Delco Gives Day, and Walk for the Wild. All these programs and activities provide the greater community with the opportunity to enjoy all that nature has to offer in the wonderful space at JHNWR. And, at our recent Annual Meeting, we welcomed three additional new/re-elected members to our board. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to those individuals that have rotated off the board for their commitment of time, talent, and treasure to our organization.

I hope you have had or will find time to visit our Nature Store. We have added new items this year and the proceeds from the store directly benefit the Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, branded items help promote the Refuge among new audiences.

As you may know, FOHR operates solely on grants, individual donations, and proceeds from our store. Supporters like you do so much to continue educating the public, bringing new visitors, participating in cleaning up the Refuge from refuse and plastic pollution, and restoring critical areas like our tidal marsh.

Please consider becoming a member or making a new or additional donation this year. Gifts of all sizes are welcome. Please visit our website for information on how to make a gift online at www.fohrefuge.org or by mail to FOHR, P.O. Box 333, Folcroft, PA 19032.

Thank you for being a supporter of environmental education, public programming, and a protector of open spaces for all who live, work, and visit our community.

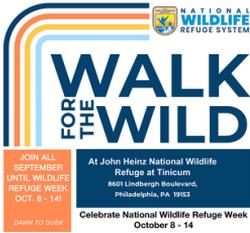
Our best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year from all your Friends at Heinz Refuge.

Sincerely,

Mary Batt

Annual Events Sponsored by FOHR

Walk for the Wild 2023



In recognition of National Wildlife Week, October 8 - 14, 2023, FOHR participated in Walk for the Wild, an annual event to demonstrate our commitment to deepening human connections with nature and to protect the thriving ecosystems we depend on. Walkers pledged funds to raise awareness and support of National Wildlife Refuges and their partners. More than \$2,000 was raised in support of the education programs at JHNWR.



Spooktacular 2023



On Thursday, October 26, 2023, more than 700 people got into the spirit, and costumes, to paint pumpkins, shoot archery, make spooky crafts, and walk the Trick or Treat Trail! Refreshments were provided by FOHR.

Annual Meeting November 4, 2023



The Friends of Heinz Refuge (FOHR) celebrated our 26th Annual Members Meeting and Election event in person at Heinz Refuge! FOHR President, Mary Batt, welcomed members, guests, speakers, and It was our pleasure to unanimously elect four Board Members. Welcome our two new Board Members, Krista Graham, and Tara Zoltek, and returning Board Members Thomas Koger and Jaclyn Rhoads.

Groundhog Day 2024

More than 400 people gathered at the Refuge on January 27, 2024 to celebrate with our annual Groundhog Day Festival! A great time was had making groundhog crafts, learning about wildlife winter adaptations, and drawing ducks. Special thanks to Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center for bringing live rescued animals, and to Glenn Waldeck for the lively music! Tincum Tim did not see his shadow this year and we expected an early spring!



Earth Day Clean-Up April 13, 2024

More than 100 volunteers helped at the Earth Day Creek Cleanup on April 13, 2024! Volunteers donned chest waders and eliminated more than 5,000 pounds of plastic from Darby Creek at the Refuge. The Friends of Heinz Refuge provided pizza for lunch!



Community Engagement and Nature Based Solutions

John Heinz NWR and Friends of Heinz Refuge are leading the effort to implement nature-based solutions to address systemic flooding concerns in nearby Eastwick and Delaware County. Nature-based solutions design, mimic, or enhance natural systems to reduce flood risk and provide environmental and societal benefits. The FOHR has supported the refuge in hosting workshops with over 20 community leaders, discussing potential nature-based solutions to be implemented both in the refuge and in the community.



Philly Nature Kids (PNK)



Last year, 125 students participated in the Refuge's flagship environmental education program, Philly Nature Kids (PNK). FOHR provided more than \$11,000 in support to cover the cost of busing, special project funds, and support for school events. Every 4th grader at two Title 1 elementary schools, less than two miles away from the Refuge, John M. Patterson Elementary and Penrose School, participate in monthly Ranger-led science lessons in their classroom and monthly visits to the Refuge. Philly Nature Kids visit the Refuge nine times per year, allowing them to see the Refuge change each season and directly observe phenomena like migration and decomposition.

Field Trips/Transportation



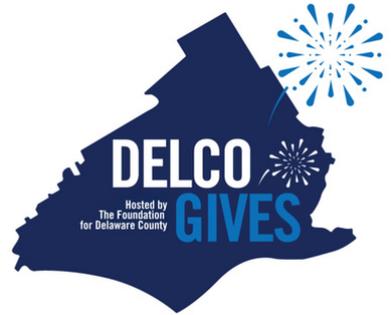
Transportation is frequently a barrier to accessing all the benefits that nature can provide for students. The Friends of Heinz Refuge (FOHR) helps to remove that barrier for local students by providing bus scholarships for schools to visit and learn at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. Last year, FOHR dedicated more than \$10,000 in bus funding, to Title 1 schools and after school programs in designated environment justice areas to visit the Refuge. These trips allowed students to access to all that JHNWR has to offer and served more than 1,000 PreK-12th grade students in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties. The cost per bus averages \$325.



Based on feedback from our members and donors, we have decided to go paper free and no longer print Marsh Musings. We will provide a pdf version to email to our supporters and will post copies on our website. Additionally, for anyone that does not have access to these formats, please let us know and we will print a copy in-house and mail it to you. Thank you!

Delco Gives Day

The Friends of Heinz Refuge was one of more than 200 local non-profit organizations participating in Delco Gives Day, a 24-hour fundraising event that celebrates Delaware County's people and organizations and encourages people to support local organizations. More than \$1,900 was raised to help underwrite the cost of events sponsored by FOHR. Join us for Delco Gives next year, May 8 - 9, 2025, from 7 PM - 7 PM.

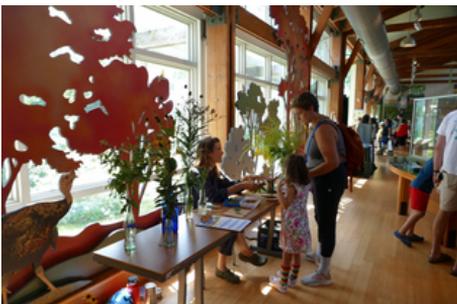


Summer Solstice June 20, 2024

Many families and friends joined us on June 20, 2024, for a fun evening of free archery, live music, nature programs, food and more to celebrate the Summer Solstice. This event is sponsored annually by the Friends of Heinz. Look for this year's event in June 2025.



Philly Fall Nature Fest



Hundreds came out to celebrate Fall with all day archery, fishing, birding at the boardwalk, guided walks, nature crafts, resource tables, food, and music! Thank you to Philly Metro Wildlife Center, Elmwood Park Zoo, and others for providing interesting presentations for our visitors. The winners from this year's photo contest were also announced.

Nature in Focus FOHR 2024 Photography Competition & Exhibition

Our annual photo contest, "Nature in Focus," was held from April 15, 2024 through August 15, 2024. Photographers of all ages were invited to submit entries, and more than 182 adult, teen, and children photographers participated in the event.

All entries were reviewed by our competition judge, Ned Levi, an internationally known professional photographer, travel journalist and columnist.

Winners were announced at our awards event on September 14, 2024, during the "Philly Fall Nature Fest." Additionally, visitors to the Photo Exhibition had the opportunity to vote for the People's Choice Award during this period.

Congratulations to all of our participants and thank you to the FOHR Photography Committee led by Board Member Matt Cohen. Look for Information on our 2025 event early this spring.



And the Winners are:



The Lewis and Clark Project - Alan Jackman



Ladybug on the Boardwalk Nathan Scudder



Marsh Wren - James Tornetta



**Ruby Throated Humingbird
Michael McCormick**



**White Flowers
David Scudder**

Nature in Focus: The Winners

Adult	Teen	Child
1st Place/General Nature Alan Jackman The Lewis & Clark Project	1st Place James Tornetta Marsh Wren	1st Place/General Nature David Scudder White Flowers
2nd Place/General Nature Craig Hedlund Bergamot in the Morning	2nd Place James Tornetta Snowy Egret	2nd Place/General Nature John Owen Scudder Fun Guys on a Stick
3rd Place/General Nature Nate Hokenson Winter Trees, Rippling Reflection	3rd Place Nolen Spivey The Best Catch	3rd Place/General Nature Mathis Turek The Reflection
1st Place/Wildlife Michael McCormick Ruby Throated Hummingbird	Bill Buchanan Award Anwar Addul-Qawi Solace in the Winter	1st Place/Wildlife Nathan Scudder Ladybug on the Boardwalk
2nd Place/Wildlife Josh Mancini Great Blue Heron	People's Choice Award Colin Free Snowy Ascent	3rd Place/Wildlife Bunny! Bunny! Aleesia Century
3rd Place/Wildlife Jerry Flynn Flight	Honorable Mention/Child Naomi Cave GOD's Hidden Wonders	3rd Place/Wildlife Viseth Meas The White Snow Egret



Solace in the Winter
Anwar Abdul-Qawi



Snowy Ascent
Colin Free

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

Ms. Leslie Abreo	Mr. Christopher Crawford	Ms. Anne Graham
Mr. John Adams	Ms. Judy Crozier	Ms. Mary Therese Grob
Ms. Kathleen Adamson	Ms. Melissa Curry	Mr. Ed Gruber
Mr. George Ahern	Mr. Alex Danovitch	Ms. Marisa Guerin
Ms. Leslie Albrecht	Mr. Ronald Dawson	Ms. Annie Lu Guertin
Dr. Carol Armstrong	Ms. Margaret Dee	Margaret and Ernest Hanna
Ms. Rae Asbridge	Mr. Ronald DeFlorio	Mr. Evan Harra
Mr. Michael Atwell	The Foundation for Delaware County	Ms. Dale Harris
Jim and Vince Austin-Cole	Ms. Heather Dembek	Ms. Carol Hart
Mr. Robert Ayerle	Ms. Terry Diubaldi	Peter and Janice Harvison
Mr. Carl Balis	Mr. Patrick Donlon	Mr. Craig Hedlund
Ms. Suzanne Barton	Mr. Keith Donnellan	Mr. Frank Heinze
Mr. Henry Bates	Ms. Mary Dougherty	Ms. Judy Heller
Ms. Mary Batt	Jane and Gordon Downing	Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Henc
Karen and Mark Belding	Ms. Linda Doyle	Ray and Elizabeth Holland
Ms. Nin Bell	Ms. April Doyle	Ms. Julia Holz
Ms. Kris Benarcik	Ms. Christine Du Bois-Buxbaum	Ms. Brianna Hurley
Mr. Hugh Benson	Ms. Maureen Dwyer	Mr. Alan Jackman
Ms. Carin Berkowitz	Ms. Cathi Eilinsfeld	Ms. Laura Jackson
Ms. Esther Bernard	Mr. Samuel Emory	Bill and Mary Lou Jarman
Ms. Aida Berzins	Mr. Frank Erdlen	Mr. David Jeanclos
Ms. Christine Blidan	Ms. Amy Evangelisto	Mr. Richard Jenks
Ms. Linda Blythe	Ms. Deborah Falk	Marty Jones
Ms. Catie Borzillo	Ms. Elizabeth Farwell	Ms. Susan Joshi
Mr. Mark Bostic	Ms. Avi Fidler	Mr. Bob Kestler
Ms. Sarah Boucas-Neto	Mr. David Fiedler	Ms. Maria Kiernan
Ms. Amanda Boulton	Mr. Steven Field	Mr. Paul Kleiman
Ms. Kellie Bowker	Ms. Gabrielle Field	Dr. Laurence Klugman
Ms. Carol Brandt	Assoc. of Retired FWS Employees	Mr. Thomas Koger
Ms. Lucy Bregman	Mr. Jerry Flynn	Estate of Evelyn Kritchevsky
Mr. Denis Brennan	Ms. Barbara Frank	Mr. William Kunze
Mr. Robert Briselli	Henry and Elaine Frank	Ms. Corinne Lagermasini
Ms. Amber Brown	Ms. Michelle Franko	Ms. Jessica Lalli
Ms. Inge Brunner	Mr. Collin Free	Mr. Chris Lancaster
Ms. Margaret Bryan	Mr. Hal Freedman	Brent and Laurel Landau
Ms. Kathleen Cannon	Ms. Rosalie Garrett	Ms. Elizabeth Lankenau
Ms. Arlene Cessna	Mr. Philip Gbondo	Mr. Kevin Lapsley
Mr. Bruce Christiansen	Dr. Jon Gelhaus	Ms. Lucia Layden
Mr. John Ciocco	Ms. Elizabeth Gemmill	Ms. Susan Leib
Ms. Amy Ciric	Ms. Samantha Giglio	Ms. Debra Levy
Ms. Kristen Claypoole	Ms. Gina Gilliam	Ms. Jessica Levy
Mr. Matthew Cohen	Ms. Krista Graham	Mr. Jeff Linder
Mr. David Cooley		

Stephen Lockard and Valerie Newpher	Mr. Ross Pilling	Mr. Phillip Siebenaler
Ms. Jillian Lopez	Pinelands Preservation Alliance	Mr. Owen Sindler
Ms. Sandy Ludwig	Ms. Elizabeth Porter	Jim and Mary Anne Siti
Ms. Anne Lund	Ms. Carol Press	Ms. Kristina Sladek
Ms. Anna Marchini	Ms. Carla Puppini	Mr. John Slettebak
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Marcus	Mr. Rand Quinn	Ms. Valerie Snow
Ms. Adele Margulies	Mr. Paul Rabe	Mr. Nolen Spivey
Ms. Lori Markusfeld	Ms. Marcia Radbill	Mr. Philip Steinberg
Ms. Erika Matyok	Julie Regnier and David Lange	Ms. Ernie Steiner
Mr. Rick Maynard	Ms. Patricia Regojo	Mr. Lawrence Stier
Mr. Forrest D. Mayo	Ms. Patricia Rehn	Ms. Catherine Stock
Ms. Elizabeth McClafferty	Ms. Irit Reinheimer	Ms. Cindy Stockton Moore
Ms. Beth McConnell	Mr. Joe Reitz	Donna and Steve Struck
Mr. Michael McCormick	Mr. Alvin Rensbarger	Ms. Karan Stuchlak
Mr. Tom McGinn	Ms. Jaclyn Rhoads	Mr. John Studdy
Mr. Jim McLaughlin	Roberta Benjamin and Robert Schneider	Ms. Nancy Szedlmayer
Mr. James McNulty	Ms. Donna Roberts	Ms. Nancy Tamminga
Ms. Anne Meibohm	Mr. Chris Robinson	Ms. Laura Temple
Mrs. Katherine Meng	Mr. Alexander Rodgers	Mr. and Mrs. Susan Tilney
Mr. Stephen Metraux	Ms. Joyce Roman	Ms. Barbara Todds
Mr. Marvin Mitchell	Mr. Frank Roman	Ms. Andrea Tomaszewski
Ms. Martha Mock	Ms. Lynn Roman	Ms. Michele Markel Torretta
Ms. Antonia Montier	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	Rose and John Trefz
Mr. Robert Morbeck	Ms. Patricia Rossi	Mr. Jason Trenchard
Ms. Joyce Morrison	Ms. Morgan Ruelle	Ms. Kathleen Turner
Ms. Mary Morton	Ms. Maureen Rutkowski	Ms. Hilary Vadner
Mr. William Moses	Ms. Chintana Sang-Urai	Susan and Peter Vogt
Ms. Amanda Muir	Ms. Stefanie Sankey	Mr. Richard Wainstein
Ms. Mary Beth Mundy	Ms. Anjoli Santiago	Mr. Stephen Walker
Mr. Paul Murphy	Ms. Heather Saunders	Mr. Franklin Wanamaker
Mr. Walter Nadolny	Mr. J. Michael Schirra	Mr. Henry Ward
Mr. Jack Nagel	Mr. Andy Schlosser	Ms. Wanda Washington
Mr. Philip Nichols	Ms. Karen Schoenholtz	Ms. Cynthia Watanabe
Mr. Alberto Nievor	Mr. Karl Schwabe	Sharon and Rick West
Mr. Donald Nigroni	Mary Ellen and Bob Scott	Mr. Dan Whaland
Mr. Jacob Norton	Ms. Anita Seaberg	Bob and Theresa White
Mr. Sean O'Connor	Ms. Jessica Sellers	The Wilderness Society
Ms. Nancy Oettinger	Ms. Karen Serwatka	National Wildlife Foundation
Ms. Theresa O'Malley	Ms. Lucia Shen	C. Amy and Bernard Wilson
Mr. Keshav Patel	Ms. Kim Sheridan	Ms. Marcie Wood
Mr. Patrick Perti	Ms. Katherine Sherif	Mr. Tim Zechiel
PA Audubon		Ms. Tara Zoltek
William Penn Foundation		

Our Giving Programs

Donate*

Your generous contribution will help us maintain environmental education programs, wildlife-oriented recreation, and habitat restoration projects at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

Sponsor a Field Trip*

Through our field trip bus grant program, we provide buses that enable students to come to the refuge for field trips. Each bus costs \$400. By sponsoring a bus, you are providing a classroom of children with an enriching experience that connects them with nature and wildlife.

Give a gift of membership*

For that friend, family member, or significant other who shares the same passion for wildlife that you do.

Join or donate online

www.fohrefuge.org

Honor a loved one

Our Leaving Legacy Program provides an opportunity for you to remember and honor a friend, family member, or significant other. We have a number of programs and projects you can support in honor of a loved one. Call 215.558-5220 or email info@fohrefuge.org to discuss what opportunities are available to you.

Matching Gift Program

Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program! If so, enclose the appropriate form with your donation.



I'd like to:

- Donate (1)
- Sponsor a field trip (2)
- Give the gift of Membership (3)

1) Donation Amount

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$

2) Number of Buses (\$300 each)

1 bus 2 buses buses

3) Membership Levels

Basic*

- \$15 Duckling (student/55+ senior)
- \$25 Heron (individual)
- \$40 Monarch (family)
- \$75 Red-bellied Turtle (group)

Friends Circle*

- \$300 Merlin (sustaining)
- \$500 Eagle (corporate sponsor)

4) Would you prefer physical or digital mailings?

- Digital Physical

Date _____

Contact information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Payment Method

Check enclosed made payable to
"Friends of Heinz Refuge"

Mail to: P.O. Box 333, Folcroft, Pa 19032

Charge my:

- Visa MC Amex Discover

Cardholder name _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ CVC _____

Thank you for your support!

Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 333

Folcroft, PA 19032



@friendsofheinz



www.fohrefuge.org



info@fohrefuge.org

**Thank you for
your support**

