

Blue Goose Alliance Bulletin

Bulletin 66 – June 30, 2010

Don Redfearn is pleased to announce the appointment of Marie Springer to the office of Secretary of the Blue Goose Alliance.

Marie, in many areas of conservation, has long been a supporter/advocate of Refuges. An insight to her philosophy of refuges can be found in her testimony before Congress in 2009, when Marie said “In fact our National Wildlife Refuges are a necessity.” She further stated,

“The 1997 Refuge Improvement Act requires that “each refuge shall be managed”, to the criteria set forth in the Act. The USFWS is underfunded and cannot meet the mandates of the Act with current funding. As things are now, only one third of all refuges can meet the mandates of the Act.”

Congressman Scott Garrett said of Marie, as he introduced her to the Congress:

“As we approach Earth Day, Marie Springer is a wonderful example of how every individual can make a real difference in preserving our natural heritage for generations to come. It is a pleasure to work with Marie and with the other volunteers of the Friends of Wallkill River to protect this special natural treasure in Northwest New Jersey and it was an honor to be able to introduce her to my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives today.”

Marie belongs to several conservation organizations. She is the founder and former president of the Friends of Wallkill NWR. She volunteers on several refuges and has undertaken a variety of tasks and duties. Marie collected and documented over 5,000 native bees. She has helped with bird counts, invasive species, and assisted with land acquisitions. She has attended town meetings on proposed development adjacent to refuges. She has testified before Congress in support of increased funding for the System. She has played an integral role in forming and growing multiple Friends Groups. She used her artistic abilities to help make a success of various refuge functions. Marie has done extensive work on the White nosed bat syndrome, both studying the effects and educating the public to the dangers involved. She coined the tag, “Every Refuge Matters.”

Marie is the recipient of many awards and honors. Among them:

In 2008, she was one of the individuals from New Jersey who was presented with EPA *Environmental Quality Award* from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for her work to protect the environment. Their exemplary efforts were recognized by EPA Regional Administrator Alan J. Steinberg during a ceremony in EPA’s New York offices.

She received the National Wildlife Refuge Association/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation *Volunteer of the Year Award* in 2009.

And in 2010 Marie Springer of Sussex, NJ, is the *Women & Wildlife Inspiration Award* recipient, reading in part: As a dedicated volunteer, talented artist and skilled researcher, Ms. Springer has worked tirelessly to protect and expand the Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge and to educate the public about its diverse wildlife. As founder and president of the Friends of Wallkill River since its inception in 2006, Ms. Springer's has served as an inspiration to others through her service and dedication.

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**NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES....WHERE THE EXTRAORDINARY IS
EVERY DAY**

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