

COALITION OF REFUGE
FRIENDS AND ADVOCATES

2020
ANNUAL
REPORT



*www.coalitionofrefugefriends.com
coalitionrefugefriends@gmail.com*

The mission of the Coalition of Refuge Friends and Advocates (CORFA) is to foster a network of nonprofit organizations supporting the National Wildlife Refuge System and the National Fish Hatchery System.



2020 a Year of Transformation

- Finalized Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- Became incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) to work together to provide Friends with resources that enable them to be strong, effective organizations
- Continued to rally Friends in support of the Friends program, the refuge system, and their nonprofits

Accomplishments

- Grew membership in CORFA Facebook group from 655 to 726
- Created Facebook retail group that has grown to 53 members
- Co-authored letter with the NWRA to the Department of Interior in response to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Friends program
- Participated in meeting with Director of USFWS regarding audit report
- Gathered comments from 43 Friends organizations to create a sign-on letter regarding the audit report
- Worked with NWRA to secure signatures from 85 organizations for a letter to FWS expressing concerns and possible actions related to the audit report

Accomplishments continued

- Co-sponsored with NWRA 6 webinars on topics including advocacy, policy, and financial management and reached more than 200 participants
- Co-published with NWRA 3 issues of The Link, a quarterly e-newsletter by and for Friends
- Worked with NWRA and FWS to encourage Friends to submit comments on the Federal Register notice about documentation to be collected from Friends
- Began work to enhance website that will archive resources for Friends

Impacts

- Shared more than 750 posts and 1,800 comments by Friends in the Facebook group; topics addressed governance, management, programs, activities, and more and helped connect Friends nationwide
- Shared best retail practices via the Facebook retail group
- Amplified NWRA policy messages about issues affecting Friends and the refuge system
- Provided a centralized site for sharing Friends-specific resources
- Promoted Friends accomplishments and experiences in The Link
- Recognized by FWS as a partner working to support and enhance the Friends community

Photo credit: Krista Lundgren/USFWS



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