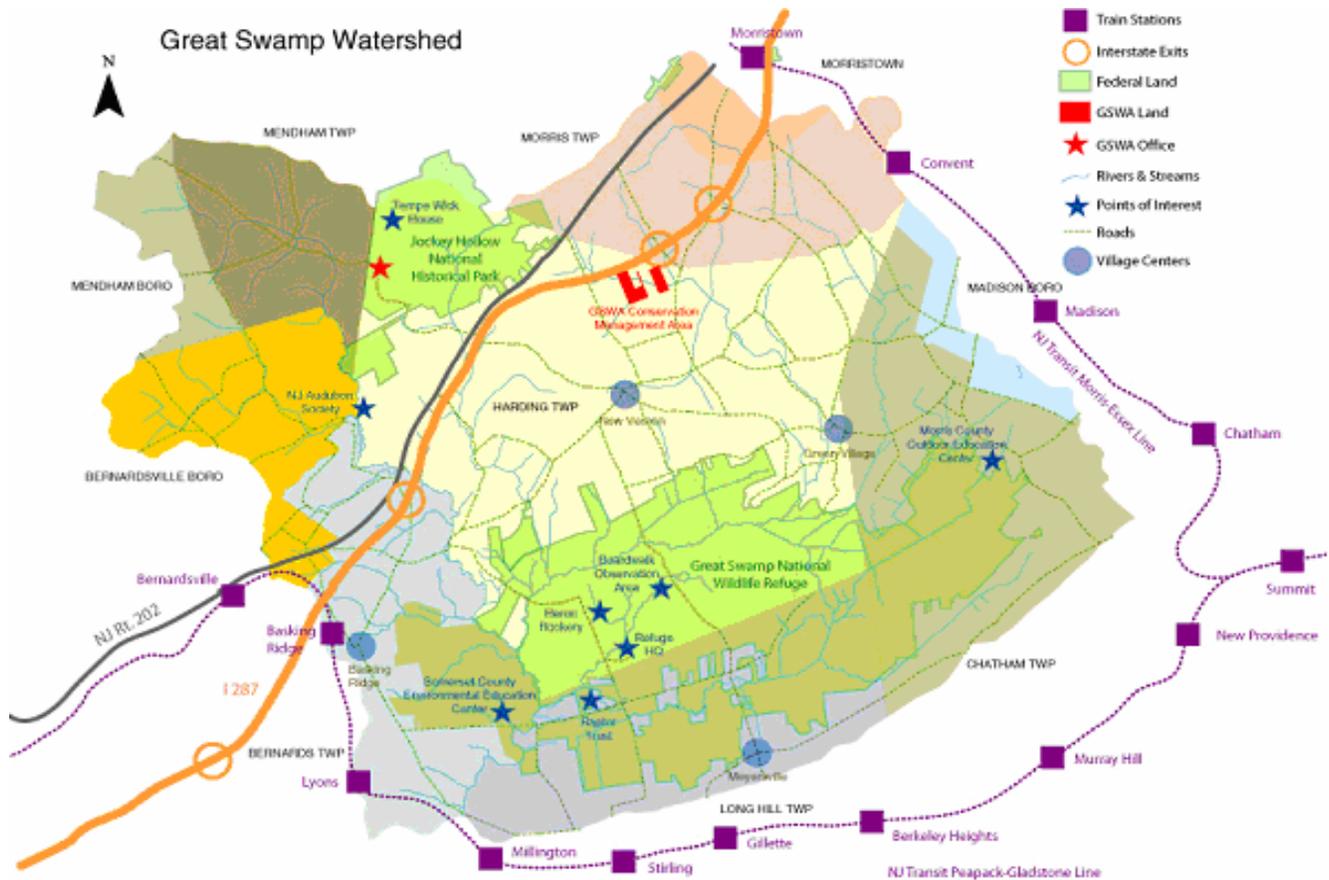


# GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION'S SCAVENGER HUNT!



On the back of this page is a list of plants and animals who live within Great Swamp watershed. Take a hike, bike or drive and see if you can find them all. When you spot one, mark the little box next to its description. After you've found them all, mail this page to us and we'll send you a sur-prize! Don't forget to tell us what places around the watershed you explored!

**Address:** Great Swamp Watershed Association Scavenger Hunt, P.O. Box 300, New Vernon, NJ 07976

You can usually find these plants and animals in their habitat or homes around Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Somerset county Park Commission's Environmental Education Center, Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, NJ Audubon's Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, The Watershed Association's Conservation Management Area in Harding Township, or even in your own backyard. You may even spot some while driving in the area. Beware of poison ivy/oak/sumac, and *please do not disturb the animals and plants on your search.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for upcoming events!): \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you explore?



You can find **water striders** on pond surfaces, streams, and in marshes. Their long legs move very quickly across the water, so keep your eyes peeled!



The **monarch butterfly** is common and easy to see. Watch as they feed on milkweed plants. These butterflies will fly to Mexico in the winter.



**Painted turtles** live in ponds, lakes, and marshes with muddy bottoms. Watch for them basking on logs, stones and banks around the watershed streams and wetlands.



**Barn swallows** have forked tails and pointed wings that help them fly fast, change direction and chase insects. They build their nests out of mud, feathers, and grass.



The mighty **pin oak** has leaves that turn bright red in the fall. Look for trees growing in wet spots with droopy, downward-pointing branches and pointy tipped leaves.



**Canada geese** are very common in North America. You might see them fly in the famous "V" formation, or in flocks on water or fields as they feed on grass.



**Great blue herons** like to feed at the edge of the water. They're famous for their long necks, legs, and beaks. Look for the heron sign as you cross streams around the Swamp —it's our logo!



**Cottontail rabbits** are cute and quick! They run in fields and eat grass and clover. They have long ears and white, fluffy "tails," and make burrows in the ground.



The spots on the **box turtle** can be yellow, orange, or brown, and they have dome-shaped shells. They like to be in forests, fields, and shallow water. Wherever you see turtles, know that wetlands are close by.



**Cattails** grow to 3 feet tall. They are usually found forming large fields in marshes and wetlands. Many insects, birds, and animals live and play under their stems. People call their brown velvety flowers 'punks'.



Don't confuse the **marsh mallow** plant with the fluffy treat in your s'mores. These plants grow on muddy edges of the Passaic river and around marshes and swamps. They grow to 4 feet tall, have grayish-green velvety leaves, and have white-pink flowers in late summer.



**Bullfrogs** live near ponds, streams and lakes surrounded by plants. They eat anything that can fit in their mouths, and their bodies can weigh over a pound! In daylight they are difficult to spot so try a hike at dusk to listen for their "jug-o-rum" call.



**Highbush blueberry** is the state fruit of New Jersey! You can sample these delicious berries if you beat the many birds and other wildlife that feast on them in July. At other times of the year look for reddish twigs, white bell like flowers and rusty red leaves.



The **eastern bluebird** is found in open woods, and flying around meadows and fields. Look for the flash of blue and red as the males and females collect bugs to take back to chicks within the boxes you see around the watershed



You can find **chipmunks** scurrying around in fields and woods during the day. They have reddish brown fur and stripes on their backs. They eat plants, fruits, mushrooms, and insects. Listen for their squeaky "chirp" sounds.



**White-tailed deer** are very common! Spot them in your yard, or in the woods on the side of the road, especially in the morning and evening. Watch their white tufted tails that stand up when they are afraid.



**Honeysuckle** plants have flowers that sure smell good! They are fast growing plants and you'll see them all across the watershed. Unfortunately, they're not native to New Jersey and can choke out other good plants.



Look closely on leaves and branches for the **praying mantis**! Its green or brown color make it hard for birds to find and eat them. Mantises have long legs and antennas, big eyes, and eat other insects.