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Message from the President

Welcome to the first issue of our redesigned Friends group newsletter. With the aid of John Petraglia, the new editor of the newsletter, we hope to publish on a regular schedule and include a wider variety of articles to keep you informed about what is happening on the refuges, and what's happening elsewhere that impacts the refuge system.

We hope you find the new format informative and readable, and hope you share feedback with us so that we can continue to improve. We would also like to see articles generated by you, our readers, especially those of you who are volunteering on the refuges. In addition, if you have favorite web sites or articles in other publications that you think our readers might find interesting, let us know and we will consider providing links to selected sites.

This year should prove to be an interesting and productive one, with fundraising for the Kingfisher Pond Discovery Center Project ramping up and a number of events planned. We hope to break ground on the Center before the end of the year.

So, read the newsletter, send us your comments, and consider joining the Friends, or making a contribution to the Project. Finally, get out to your local refuge and enjoy these wonderful islands of wildness within our midst!