



For Immediate Release
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Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge Named 2019 Molly Krival National Wildlife Refuge System Friends Group of the Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 4, 2019) – The Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Tennessee have been announced as the 2019 Molly Krival National Wildlife Refuge System Friends Group of the Year. Presented by the National Wildlife Refuge Association and named after Molly Krival, a pioneer in the Refuge Friends Group movement, the award recognizes outstanding contributions by a group of dedicated volunteers in Friends organizations who provide essential services to the Refuge System.

The Friends of Tennessee NWR recently contributed over 12,000 volunteer hours being put towards various refuge activities including; environmental education, interpretation, and engagement with the surrounding community, wildlife monitoring, and habitat management. Their habitat management work ranges from managing moist soil units for wintering waterfowl and shorebirds and wood duck and Canada goose banding to applying for grants and developing partnerships and developing interpretive pollinator gardens.

Over 3,600 school children were able to visit the Tennessee NWR because of the Friends hard work raising funds to support transportation expenses for 60 field trips. In addition, the Friends groups also raised money to hire an intern for environmental education programs and are currently working to hire another this year. The Friends do not stop there either, over the past year they have strengthened their advocacy arm on the local and national scale. “From advocacy to habitat restoration, the Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge are a perfect example of what a Refuge Friends Group can mean to a refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System,” said Geoffrey L. Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

“I am truly blessed to have a Friends Group such as the Friends of Tennessee NWR that is willing to take on all challenges that I present to them and are supportive of the Complex and the Service,” said Barron Crawford, Refuge Manager of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge Complex. “The Friends of Tennessee NWR understand their role is to provide their voice and actions in support of all national wildlife refuges.”

The Friends of Tennessee’s award will be presented on February 27, 2019, at the National Wildlife Refuge Association’s Annual Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.

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The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America’s wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries that secure its ecological integrity. For more information, visit www.refugeassociation.org or contact [Kristen Berry](#), National Wildlife Refuge Association, 202-417-3803.