Maxwell Mays, a leading figure in the state's cultural life for over a half century was best known as a folk artist who painted scenes of his beloved Rhode Island. He began painting seriously while serving in the U.S. Air Force in Brazil during World War II. In the ensuing years he became notable for a number of highly successful art shows and magazine covers, including Yankee Magazine, featuring traditional New England scenes and was a highly sought-after speaker and storyteller.

He was president and director emeritus of the Providence Art Club, where the main gallery is named in his honor. Mays was also a lay minister for over four decades at Greene United Methodist Church in Greene, R.I.

Mays was also a well-known philanthropist, whose generosity benefited numerous organizations, including the Rhode Island Foundation and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

“I would like this land to stay open, I would like this land to breathe because this has been very good to me and for me.”

- Maxwell Mays

Refuge open daily from sunrise to sunset for hiking, observing and photographing wildlife; quiet contemplation, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Please! No dogs, bicycles, horses, jogging, picnicking, hunting, fishing, trapping, motorized vehicles, camping or littering.

Thank you for your cooperation.