

Sam Hamilton Scholarship Created

The Friends of Noxubee Refuge, in conjunction with the College of Forest Resources at Mississippi State University, has established a graduate level scholarship in memory of Sam Hamilton. At the time of his unexpected death, Sam was Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. He was a native of Starkville, Mississippi, a graduate of Mississippi State University, and spent his childhood days exploring Noxubee Refuge. He began his conservation career as a Youth Conservation Corp employee at Noxubee. While Sam ultimately became the head of all refuges in the United States, Noxubee was always a special place to him.

Sam believed that through sound science practices, it is possible to achieve conservation and sustainability. He worked to unify conservationists, hunters, anglers, landowners, state and federal agencies, and business people for the purpose of conserving and enhancing wildlife resources.

The Sam D. Hamilton Friends of Noxubee Refuge Graduate Conservation Scholarship was created as a memorial to Sam and to provide financial assistance to graduate level college students who, like Sam, want to devote their lives to a career in conservation. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduate student at MSU who demonstrates efforts in conservation volunteer work and/or to those who have served internships on National Wildlife Refuges.

Contributions to the scholarship fund may be sent to Jeff Little, Director of Development, College of Forest Resources, Box 9680, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762. Checks should be made payable to the MSU Foundation and designated for the Sam D. Hamilton Scholarship. Gift levels of \$500.00 and above will be displayed on a plaque at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.

Photo Contest Deadline Nears

It is that time of year again, when the deadline for the annual photo contest is drawing near. Everyone loves to receive money and a ribbon, so visit the refuge soon for that last minute photo which could be one of the winners!

The deadline for entries to be delivered to the Noxubee Visitor Center is September 15. Mailed entries must be postmarked by September 13. Please refer to the rules and entry form on our website. Winners will be announced at 12:00 noon in the Tisdale Auditorium during the "National Wildlife Refuge Week Event at NNWR" on Saturday, October 2, 2010.



Photo taken on 6/21/2010 by Christopher Brooks

Please join us for a fun-filled day and see if your photo taken at the Refuge is one of the winners

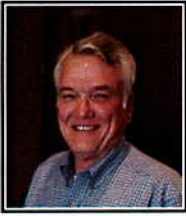
General Meeting

September 16
6:30 PM

**Noxubee Refuge
Visitor Center**

Dr. Jeanne Jones will give a presentation titled **Roadside Management and Native Plants - Integrating Conservation of Biodiversity.** Dr. Jones is a Professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture at Mississippi State University.

Snacks will be provided afterward.



From The President

I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer and are ready to assist with some projects at the Refuge. Volunteer activities continued through the summer but at a slower pace. I would like to thank Margaret Copeland, Frank Bonner and Freddie Rasberry for

helping finish the second of the four quarterly trash pickups in our Adopt-A-Highway section of Highway 25 south of Starkville. We plan to have the third one in late September, with a time and place to be announced. We welcome additional participation in order to complete the task in only one session.

Be sure to read the articles in this newsletter about the following two high-priority projects. After several years of discussion, our Oral History of NNWR Project is now making significant progress. The recording equipment has been obtained, and interviews are being conducted. Secondly, we will soon launch the campaign to obtain funds to endow the scholarship which FONR is sponsoring in honor of the memory of Sam Hamilton. I would like to thank Henry and his staff, and Jeff Little and his colleagues at MSU for their assistance in establishing this scholarship. See a related article in this newsletter.

A major effort will soon be underway to make some needed changes in our website. The address will remain the same. However, we will move to a different host site and use new software that will make it easier to maintain and keep the website up-to-date. Please be patient while the transition is being made.

You may have noticed that I often end these reports with a reference to "your refuge" to emphasize the fact that our refuges do belong to the citizens of our country. Recently while driving on the road on the east side of Bluff Lake I saw a very large turtle in distress trying to cross the road. As I passed I saw that it had been run over and its shell was badly cracked. I went back and helped it off the road but am sure that it could not have survived. Also while returning to assist this turtle I observed a rather small one trying to cross the road, and watched helplessly as it was run over by a car. Its shell was not damaged but it was dead since the tires had apparently run over its head so I removed it from the road too. The points I am attempting to make with this lengthy introduction are that we all need to be very careful as we drive along our Refuge roads because, as a matter of fact, the main reason that the refuge system was established in the first place was to protect the "critters," especially those which are threatened or endangered. Let's enjoy Their Refuges but be very careful in the process.

Upcoming Events

September 25 - Making & Playing instruments From Nature, with Dr. Robert Damm. Reservations are required.

October 2 - National Wildlife Refuge Week Event. An outing for the entire family. Activities scheduled for from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Visit our website for more ways you can explore the Refuge!



Photo taken on 7/5/2010 by Lawrence Croft

Oral History Project

As we listen to the stories and memories of people whose lives are connected to the Refuge, there is still the question about its origins. According to a March 29, 1935 article in the Winston County Journal, about 1200 families were to move from their land to fertile land purchased by the federal government. This was part of the Resettlement Administration, a New Deal program that consolidated programs relating to land use planning and rural relief from several federal departments. Later, the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 was passed and used to establish wildlife refuges. The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (Duck Stamp Act) also played a role in the need to acquire lands for the protection of birds and waterfowl. Noxubee was one of the first four refuges to be established under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act.

Many questions still remain as we add more people to our list with stories to tell. This oral history project will truly be a memorable journey for many of us. If you would like to volunteer to interview people, please let us know. If there is someone who would like to share their story or memories with us, let us hear from you.

Meet The Board: Florence Oakley Box

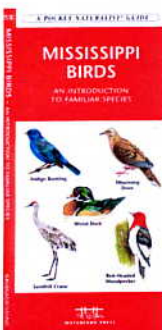
Florence Oakley Box's roots run deep in the area. She grew up on her family dairy farm, Oak-Ayr Farm, in the Oktoc community only a few miles from the Refuge. Her grandfather raised cotton in what is now a portion of Bluff Lake before that property became a part of the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.

Throughout her life, she spent many enjoyable hours at Noxubee, riding the back roads with family and friends, picnicking, climbing the fire tower, visiting in the Burton Webster family home, and just observing nature.

Florence graduated from Starkville High School and later from MSCW (currently Mississippi University for Women) and MSU with degrees in Library Science. She was the librarian at Overstreet Elementary for 19 years and Starkville High School for 18 years before she retired.

Florence has been married to Larry Box for 45 years, and her hobbies include quilting, reading, photographing silos, and traveling. They have one son, Warren, who lives in California.

Florence is very generous, volunteering with several local organizations. She is a charter member of Friends of Noxubee Refuge (FONR) and is the current chair of the Nature Store committee, her first and only venture into the world of retail. She enjoys visiting stores at other refuges/parks and welcomes suggestions and ideas for the Friends' store. Florence is also active in the First United Methodist Church and is in charge of archives/history. She is also an active volunteer with Starkville Reads, Oktibbeha Audubon Society, and Oktoc Community activities.



Book Review

Have you found an animal track or seen a bird in the woods, on the beach, or in the backyard, that you wanted to identify? Have you struggled to identify a bird at a feeder? *Animal Tracks of the Peterson Flash Guide Series* or *Mississippi Birds of A Pocket Naturalist Guide Series* will help identify the track or bird. The folded and plastic coated guides of each series are fast and easy references for identification. *Animal Tracks* includes the tracks of

more than 100 species most commonly seen throughout the United States and Canada. Dimensions of the animal or bird tracks and brief information about the featured animal or bird habitat, food, den information, and nesting habits are also given. The *Flash Guide Series* also includes *Butterflies*, *Wild Roadside Flowers*, *Trees*, *Mushrooms* and *Backyard Birds*.

The Pocket Naturalist Guide Series, smaller in size than the *Flash Guides*, has more than 30 titles. Additional titles included are *Butterflies and Moths*, *Dragonflies and Damselflies*, *Ducks*, *Fresh-water Fishes*, and *Night Sky*. Of particular interest is the *Mississippi Birds* guide which introduces species likely to be seen in Mississippi. Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge is listed in *Mississippi Birds* as one of the 15 birding hotspots in the state. Either series of guides will be helpful to those interested in carrying a waterproof easy-to-use guide when hiking in the woods or strolling around the block. Visit the Noxubee Nature Store to purchase your copy of the guides which are great stocking stuffers.

NEEDED:

Natural dried materials such as pine cones, acorns, or pods to be used in the December 4 workshop. Greenery such as cedar boughs, holly, or pine can be delivered the day of the workshop. Used wreaths, candles, and ribbon are also welcome. Deliver the materials to the Visitor Center by December 3.

Visit our Nature Store

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STORE HOURS

MON-FRI 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
SAT 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
SUN 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM



Manager's Corner

The recent hot and dry conditions helped us get some of our projects completed, but it won't be long before the cold weather will be upon us again. Some of our work was slowed this summer because the need for assistance at the coast for the oil spill. This caused a temporary lack of personnel at the refuge. Oil spill details have not only impacted refuge staff, but I know of two of our Friend's Board of Directors that have also been working at the coast – my hat is off to Gale Hagood

and Peggy Guyton for their efforts.

Many of you will recall that we had solicited bids to pave the 2.3 miles of Loakfoma road to highway 25. The Winston County partnership contract which opened in May came in too high and so the project will be re-bid and opened the first week in September. The Federal Highways program work continues on repaving the refuge interior roads. Detours and road blocks are in effect, so please be patient with our progress.

Finally, I want to personally thank the Friends of Noxubee Refuge for their foresight in the creation, development and sponsorship of the Sam D. Hamilton Friends of Noxubee Graduate Conservation Scholarship at his alma mater, Mississippi State University. Sam always encouraged our young and upcoming natural resource professionals to seek out a graduate level education. I can think of no better way to honor his memory than through a scholarship that will uphold Sam's ideals and provide financial assistance to our upcoming professionals. I hope others will join us in making this scholarship a lasting tribute to the memory of Sam D. Hamilton and to aid in fostering his conservation ethic.

I hope to see you soon!



is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, dedicated to conserving our natural resources through volunteer work and fund raising.

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For an application or information about the Refuge call (662) 323-5548.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Contributions to this newsletter were made by Frank Bonner, Florence Box, Larry Box, Chris Brooks, Susan Brooks, Janis Bryant, Lawrence Croft, Andrea Dunstan, Judy Howle, Linda Lodato, Henry Sansing, and Jacque Tisdale.