

## FONR Receives Grant

On October 5, Friends of Noxubee Refuge received an e-mail from Mr. Stuart Wilson, Trustee of the Wilson Conservation Trust (WCT), inviting us to apply for a grant to assist in our conservation mission in the area of public education. WCT is a private, independent charitable foundation devoted to environmental conservation, resource sustainability, habitat preservation, wilderness protection, and species biodiversity. Just receiving the invitation is an honor since WCT generally does not consider unsolicited proposals.

With assistance from Dr. John Guyton and Marion Sansing, both significant contributors to the success of the Junior Refuge Ranger program, along with refuge staff, FONR board members and volunteers, and others, prepared and submitted a proposal. The proposal requested support for a Summer Day Camp for the NNWR Junior Refuge Rangers, to offer more in-depth educational conservation experiences at Noxubee Refuge. On November 6, we received a check from Mr. Wilson for \$2,500.

We are now designing the day camp programs and activities. Later we will be asking for volunteers to assist with the camp and hope that many of you will be able to help. We will keep you informed of our plans in future newsletters and on our website.

## Large Donation to Hamilton Scholarship

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation recently announced a contribution of up to \$25,000 to the Sam D. Hamilton Friends of Noxubee Refuge Graduate Conservation Scholarship Fund. In making the large donation, Teal Edelen said the Foundation is hopeful it will encourage additional contributions.

This donation provides a significant jumpstart in the drive to provide an endowed scholarship honoring the memory of Sam Hamilton, who was a Starkville native and Mississippi State alumnus. As a legacy to Sam, this scholarship will be awarded to graduate students at Mississippi State University who have an excellent academic record, recommendations by their professors, and have performed volunteer conservation work and/or served internships on National Wildlife Refuges.

Detailed information about the establishment of this scholarship will be sent to current and retired employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and similar agencies. Anyone who shares Sam's dedication to the conservation of the nation's natural heritage and want to honor his memory may send contributions directly to the scholarship fund which is supervised by Jeff Little, Director of Development, College of Forest Resources, Box 9680, MS State, MS 39762.

## General Meeting

JANUARY 20  
6:30 PM

### Noxubee Refuge Visitor Center

The speaker for the January general membership meeting will be Daniel S. Coggin of Wildlife Mississippi.

The topic will be "Blackland Prairie Restoration Initiative".

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Elections will also be held for FONR Board of Director members. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor during the meeting.

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Refreshments will be served after the meeting.



## 27 Refuges Mark 75 Years

In 1935 land prices were low, the need for conservation apparent, and the nation was laboring to recover from the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. Maybe that helps explain why it was a banner year for the establishment of national wildlife refuges. Twenty-seven refuges, most of them in the country's midsection, mark their 75th anniversaries in 2010.

Some, like White River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas, see parallels between those times and these. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps played a "significant role," says refuge manager Dennis W. Sharp, building roads and structures on the refuge, established for the protection of migratory birds. Today, during another economic downturn, stimulus funds have helped repave six miles of gravel road on the refuge and repair CCC structures including a dam, a garage and a pipe storage building.

The 160,000-acre White River Refuge covers part of the largest remaining bottomland hardwood forest in North America and is one of the most important wintering areas for mallard ducks in the continent. About two-thirds of all bird species found in Arkansas use the refuge.

For a complete listing of the other refuges referenced above, see the Friends Newswire at <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/friends/newswire/>. This article and many others are available for everyone interested in the latest news from Friends groups around the nation.



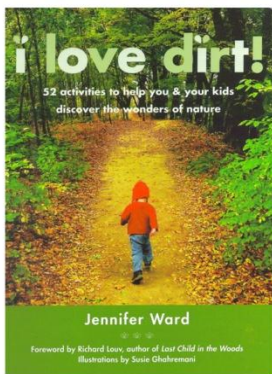
*Pledge members of Kappa Alpha Fraternity at Mississippi State University recently participated in the fraternity's annual work day at Noxubee Refuge. The pledges are shown above with a portion of the trash they picked up along the shore of Bluff Lake and the right of way of Highway 25. Friends of Noxubee Refuge members and the refuge staff appreciate the many volunteer hours given each year by Kappa Alpha.*



*Photo taken by Lawrence Croft on November 8, 2010.*

## Book Review

The subtitle of *I LOVE DIRT!, 52 Activities to Help You and Your Kids Discover the Wonders of Nature*, is an excellent description of the book. The book is arranged by season and offers a plethora of activities which require no special equipment or exotic settings. The activities encourage children to explore nature using the five senses, to relax in the outdoors, to stretch their muscles in all types of weather, and to use their imaginations as they observe nature.



Although you may have made a daisy chain as a child, have you ever tried to build a bird nest? Gone water-hole watching? Sponsored a roly-poly race? These activities are among the one to two page directions for each open-ended activity recommended for four to eight year olds. Easy to read, the activities described may make you want to "slither like a snake" or "twirl like a leaf" no matter what your age! *I LOVE DIRT!* is recommended for anyone who has children or works with children and who wants to create a love of nature in those children.

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## From The President

As we start a new year, let's remember some FONR accomplishments and projects from 2010, especially those which will continue this year. Last year got off to a great start with the Conservation Educator of the Year Award being presented to FONR by the

Mississippi Wildlife Federation. Then we were saddened by the untimely death of USFW Director Sam Hamilton. Refuge Manager Henry Sansing proposed a conservation scholarship be established in honor of Sam in conjunction with Mississippi State University. FONR joined with the MSU Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture to establish it. Fund raising is underway for the scholarship, and we hope that you will participate.

The FONR oral history project was initiated last year. Janis Bryant is leading the committee to collect and document the history of the area, including the establishment of the refuge and ongoing community engagement with local families. She and several other volunteers are conducting interviews with local people who have interesting and important stories to tell about the area. If you know of someone with such a story contact Janis (jcg34@msstate.edu, 323-2277) or Sheldon Webster (sbw@borlandcpa.com).

Our annual Nature Photography Contest attracted several entries from all age groups this fall. The photographs are on display in the Visitor Center so be sure to stop by and look at them. Perhaps they will inspire you to return and enter your own refuge photos in the Fall 2011 contest.

Finally a great deal of work has gone into plans for bringing our website up to date. We expect the new website, with the same address, to be ready early next year. We appreciate your patience while the new site is under construction.

More details on some of the above topics can be found in the four quarterly 2010 Noxubee Notes newsletters. The first three are posted on the current website, and several including the fourth are available at the Visitor Center. Plans are underway to establish a demonstration prairie at Morgan Hill just south of Loakfoma Lake so the program being held at our FONR General Meeting in January is very timely.

I look forward to seeing you soon at the Refuge.

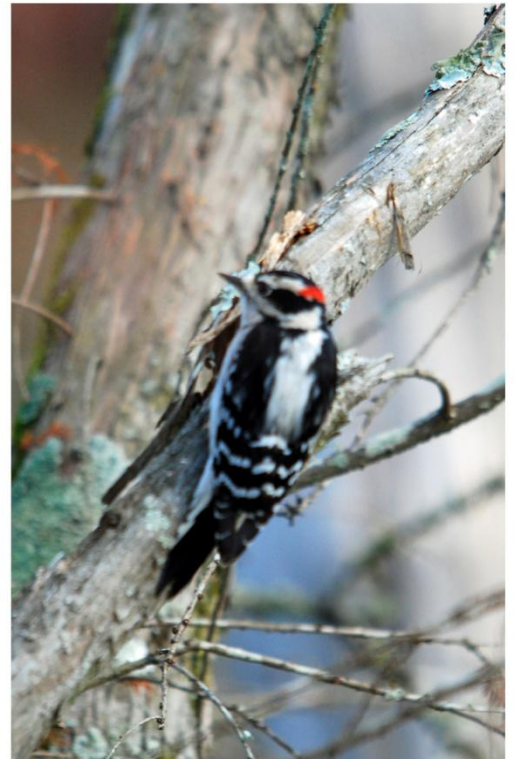


## FONR Leader Awarded

Dr. John Guyton was awarded the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Regional Director's Honor Award for Volunteer Service on May 13, 2010. He is pictured here on the left with Cindy Dohner, the USFWS Director of the Southeast Region.

## Election Notice

In January 2011, FONR will have two open Board of Director positions. On August 6, Bob Thompson reported that the Nomination Committee recommended Joe Mulrooney and Jacque Tisdale be entered as nominees for these positions. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor during the General Meeting in accordance with the bylaws. Please join us.



*Photos taken by Lawrence Croft.*



*Gwen Cotton and John Guyton assist at the Nature Crafts Workshop on December 4.*

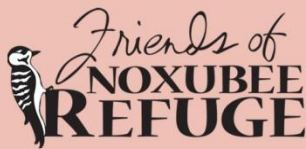
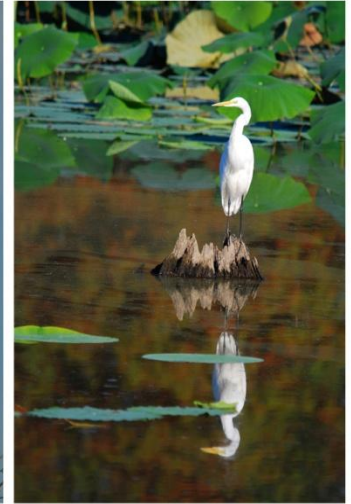


# Volunteers Needed

The membership of FONR is good and strong, and we want to keep it that way. As new chair, I'm looking for volunteers who would help with this task. You will need a computer with internet access, and some free time for getting a committee organized.

We probably will be using Filemaker Pro software which has been previously used and recommended for setting up databases. This is new software to me, therefore, we'll learn together. This will give us a chance to determine how we want to use the software to suit the needs of board members and the committee.

If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please email me, Jan Bryant, [jcb34@msstate.edu](mailto:jcb34@msstate.edu), or call, 323-2277.



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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Susan E. Brooks  
[susan.e.brooks@gmail.com](mailto:susan.e.brooks@gmail.com)

## 2011 GENERAL MEETING DATES

**January 20, April 21, June 23, and September 22**

*Contributions to this newsletter were made by Frank Bonner, Florence Box, Larry Box, Susan Brooks, Janis Bryant, Lawrence Croft, Andrea Dunstan, and Jacque Tisdale.*