

Rachel Carson



1907-2007

*It is a wholesome and necessary thing for us to turn again to the earth and in the contemplation of her beauties to know of wonder and humility.*

- Rachel Carson

May 27, 2007, marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rachel Carson, one of the world's foremost leaders in conservation. Her work revolutionized America's interest in environmental issues. Rachel Carson was born in rural Pennsylvania, where she spent many hours exploring the forests and streams. Carson entered Pennsylvania College for Women as an English major determined to become a writer, but switched to biology midway through her studies. Upon graduation, she was awarded a scholarship to complete her graduate work in biology at Johns Hopkins University, an enormous accomplishment for a woman in 1929. Carson's distinction in writing and biology led to a job with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries (now USFWS) in 1936. She created a series of radio spots on marine life. During her Service

career, she also wrote numerous pamphlets on conservation, such as the Conservation in Action series – which explored wildlife and ecology on national wildlife refuges. During her free time, Carson wrote books about her government research. Her first book, *Under the Sea-Wind*, highlighted her ability to present scientific material in clear poetic language that captivated readers and sparked their interest in the natural world. *The Sea Around Us* along with *The Edge of the Sea*, a third book published in 1956, provided a new perspective on conservation to concerned environmentalists. The success of her second book prompted Carson to resign her position with the Service to devote all her time to writing. Her final book, *Silent Spring*, awakened society to its responsibility to other forms of life. Carson had long been aware of the dangers of chemical pesticides and also the controversy within the agricultural community. *Silent Spring* provoked a firestorm of controversy as well as attacks on Carson's professional integrity. The pesticide industry mounted a massive campaign to discredit Carson. The federal government, however, ordered a complete review of pesticide policy and Carson was asked to testify before a Congressional committee. As a direct



**GENERAL MEETING**  
**APRIL 19, 6:30 P.M.**

We invite you to join us for our general meeting with a presentation from Dr. Mike Williams, professor of entomology, on Butterfly Gardening at the Refuge Visitor Center. Come and learn how to attract a variety of butterflies to your garden. There will be a social gathering with refreshments afterwards. You may bring a friend; meetings are open to the public.

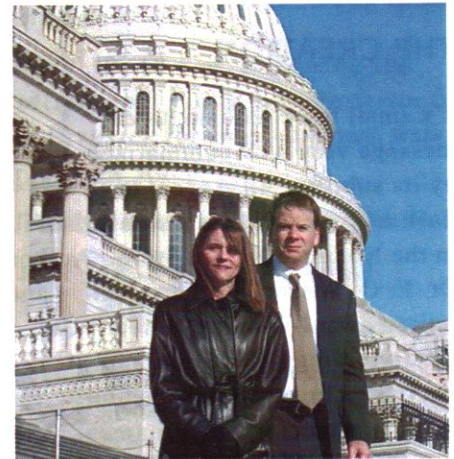
**AT THE VISITOR CENTER**

result of that review, DDT was banned. With the publication of *Silent Spring*, Carson is credited with launching the contemporary environmental movement and awakening concern by Americans about the environment. Carson once said, "Man's endeavors to control nature by his powers to alter and to destroy will inevitably evolve into a war against himself, a war he will lose unless he comes to terms with nature." She died from cancer in 1964 at the age of 57. A refuge near Carson's summer home on the coast of Maine was named the Rachel Carson NWR in 1969 to honor the memory of this extraordinary woman.

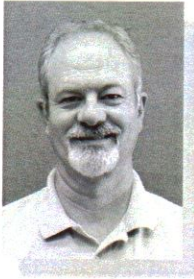
## A Visit to our Lawmakers

Following the Beyond the Boundaries Workshop (see back page), the National Wildlife Refuge Association led Friends representatives to Capitol Hill, where they conducted 85 meetings with members of Congress from 20 states. They urged their members to increase funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System to \$451.5 million in FY08 and to show their support by joining the Refuge Caucus, now 129 strong. NWRA provided

guidance and support for Friends to deliver the message. On March 5, Jack and Jimmie Faye McCarty visited with the staff of 5 lawmakers. These visits included the offices of Representatives Bennie Thompson, Roger Wicker, and Chip Pickering, as well as those of Senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott. Friends of Noxubee Refuge's presence was known in D.C.! Jack and Jimmie Faye were impressed with the dedicated Friends groups throughout the United States.







## President's Report

Ahhh, spring is here. There is beautiful light green in the forest understory, bird songs are in the air, and fishermen are on the banks of Bluff Lake. Lady Noxubee is beginning to yawn and stretch. This is a wonderful time to go to the Refuge and start taking photographs for the Annual Photography Contest. Entry forms are available at the Visitor Center. The cold and bleakness of winter did not diminish the enthusiasm of our membership. Sixty participants took advantage of a beautiful day in January for a guided bird walk with Margaret Copeland and Lauren Thead. Their efforts were rewarded by sightings of many ducks and an eagle. The weather was not so cooperative when Astronomy for Beginners was held. In spite of the weather, 30 adults and children attended the lecture by Professor Lawrence Croft. For the World Wetlands Day Celebration Dr. John Guyton gave an excellent presentation of wetland plants in the Visitor Center, followed by an exciting wetland walk along the Bluff Lake levee and through Prisock Fields with

Professor Jeanne Jones. Andrea Dunstan held the Annual Bluebird Workshops in February and March, with help from Susan Allen and Jacob Dunstan. Fifty-nine young birders watched a video and got to build bluebird boxes to take home and place around their yards. Twenty-five women had a great time at our first Women in the Outdoors Event in March. Participants received expert instruction on shooting, archery, orienteering, canoeing, Dutch oven cooking, snake identification and fishing. The event was made possible through the National Wild Turkey Federation, a grant from Wal-Mart, donations from the Oktibbeha



Photos © Marion Sansing

County Co-Op and NE MS Coca-Cola Bottling Co., and help from refuge staff. In February, Dr. Frank Bonner led 12 volunteers to clear a trail for the Ray Watson Memorial. A loop was established off the Environmental Education Center Trail. In March, Boy Scout Troop 14 came and finished widening the trail. An audio-guided walking tour, which includes all shrubs and trees identified by Dr. Bonner, will be produced. Donations to Ray Watson's Memorial are being used to fund this project, along with a \$5,000 grant obtained by Refuge Manager Henry Sansing. Margaret Copeland has created a bird feeding station at the northeast corner of the Visitor Center. This is a trial to see which feeders the birds prefer and how best to place them for both birds and birders. Marion Sansing was selected as the Volunteer of the Year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association for her dedication and devotion to Friends of Noxubee Refuge. Congratulations to Marion for receiving this national honor! Her energy and talents have made great improvements in FONR programs and are much appreciated.

FONR has officially adopted a mile of Highway 25 from just south of St. Mark's Road. Volunteers are needed for a cleanup on Saturday, April 14, from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Meet at the MSU Forestry Expo Area at St. Marks Rd. and Hwy 25.

As you can see, FONR is very active. We hope that you will

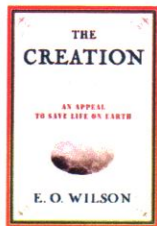
take advantage of the educational programs and the opportunities to make our refuge the best it can be by participating in the projects underway. If you have ideas or suggestions for projects, programs, or things that you would like FONR to initiate, I would love to hear them. See you at the Refuge.

Joe Mulrooney

## Book Review

### THE CREATION

A small book with an urgent message very well summarized by its subtitle, *An Appeal to Save Life on Earth*, is now available in the Noxubee Nature Store. Author Dr. E. O. Wilson, Alabama native and retired award-winning Harvard University biology professor, appeals to the reader to accept responsibility for helping protect our environment.



He reminds us of civilizations which have collapsed when their environments have been ruined. Wilson emphasizes the dependence of human well-being on the diversity of plant and animal species which share our planet.

He and many of his colleagues have expressed the opinion that if habitat destruction continues at its present rate, by the end of this century half of the current species of plants and animals could be extinct or in serious danger of extinction.

Wilson calls on everyone to put aside philosophical differences and act quickly to reverse this alarming trend. He suggests that our best chance for survival is for science and religion, two of the most important forces in today's world, to unite in the cause of biological conservation.

Highly recommended by Margaret Copeland and Lawrence Croft, this book is interesting, informative, thought-provoking, and well written and documented.



# NOXUBEE NATURE STORE

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Our first FONR Calendar is now available. The 5x7 stand-up desk-calendar features photographs of the refuge from the last two Amateur Nature Photography Contests. The calendar goes to June 2008, and each page inspires with a quote from Aldo Leopold. Show your support and purchase one the next time you are at the refuge.



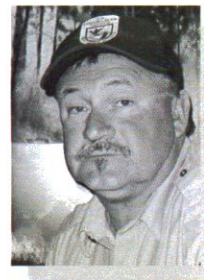
Earth Day is April 22. Let everyone know you care. We have three styles of T-shirts available, each for only \$10.

## STORE HOURS

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

## Meet the Refuge Staff Dusty Dendy

Fire is a valuable tool used to restore, maintain and enhance wildlife habitats. Noxubee NWR has 27,000 acres in its fire program. That means, on a rotating basis, most of those lands are burned systematically every three to five years. Noxubee's endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers benefit greatly by regulated fire. Systematic burning controls the woody shrubs, producing the clear understory preferred by the birds. Dusty Dendy is the prescribed fire specialist who oversees the burning program. Before a single match is struck, Dusty must make sure the requirements of that area's Prescribed Fire Plan are met, including strict weather related requirements set by the state. He is a specially trained and qualified fire manager, called the "burn-boss," responsible for having the correct equipment and trained personnel on-site and for overseeing the burn.

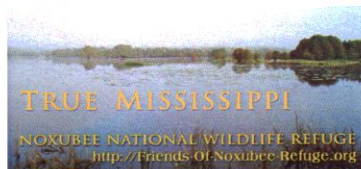


He is responsible for making sure the fire-fighters are up to date on training and physical fitness. All fire-fighters are required to pass an arduous physical test annually. Dusty is also certified as an Air Support Group Supervisor and helps manage aviation resources in wild fire situations around the nation. During the past 15 years, Dusty has been called to fight fires in most of the western states, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. He says travel is one of the good things about his wildfire experience.

Dusty's hobbies are archery and playing music. While their children were growing up, Dusty and his wife Marie were involved in competitive archery. The entire family was quite competent, at one time having 265 trophies among them. Since daughter Tracey and son Ryan are grown up now, Dusty recently bought a motorcycle, and he and Marie are taking trips on it. Dusty plays several musical instruments, including the guitar, and is teaching himself to play the harmonica. Yes, Dusty is the "Burn Boss" but he is much, much more. So when you see the smoke around Noxubee Refuge this spring, don't worry, a competent fire manager and his crew are in charge.

## Where is it now?

You can currently see our billboard on Highway 50 in West Point.



## Saturdays at the Refuge

### APRIL 21, 9 a.m.

In 2007, we will observe Earth Day by reaching out to our friends at Osborn Prairie with a **Prairie Rescue Stewardship Day**. Osborn Prairie is in dire need. Junipers are taking over one of the last remnants of the Black Prairie. Activities include cutting and moving junipers of any size. There will also be information on prairie flora and fauna. Please participate in this great outreach program.

Every first & third Saturday of the month, weekend programs and activities are made possible with the help of Friends of Noxubee Refuge. Check our website, a local newspaper, or call the refuge at (662) 323-5548. Activities identified with the blue badge are also part of the Junior Refuge Ranger program.

### MAY 5, 8 a.m. Photo Walk

A nature photography experience for everyone.

**MAY 19, 10 a.m. Exploring the Mississippi Flora** Join Professor Bob Brzuszek for an educational walk through the woods.

### JUNE 2, 9 a.m. Ladies, Bait Your Hook

**JUNE 16, 8 a.m. 5th Annual Youth Fishing Derby**





## From the Refuge Manager

My heartfelt appreciation goes to my wife Marion, who was selected as the NWRA's Volunteer of the Year, for 2007. It was a real privilege to see her honored and receive a beautiful plaque from the NWRA and Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, along with a letter from Senator Trent Lott, commending her for her work. Although I am biased, her devotion to family, the Refuge and the Refuge System has been amazing. I want thank Jack and Jimmy Faye McCarty who traveled with us to Washington. It is my understanding that Jack was the only Friends' group representative who had five appointments set up ahead of time for his visits to Capitol Hill. They delivered a strong message for the Refuge System and the Refuge. The Beyond the Boundaries Workshop focused on outside threats to refuges throughout the system, including development, military landing zones, space ports and amphitheatres. Noxubee is still fairly safe, but we see the wave coming, with housing developments moving in from all directions. Improving access to the refuge is a bit of a double-edged

sword, but I feel the benefits of public access will outweigh the negatives. We would be naïve not to expect developments with paved access. However, we will be observant and still manage and conserve this jewel of a refuge. Jacque and Ed Tisdale have done an outstanding job getting the FONR website updated and running again; take a look! A challenge cost-share grant for the Refuge in partnership with the Friends has been approved for an observation tower on Loakfoma Lake. The grant will be funded at \$10,000 and matched with volunteer labor and funding. We also received \$5,000 in recreation fee dollars to assist in the purchase and programming of the MP3 players to be used in self-guided tours beginning with the Dr. Ray Watson Memorial Trail. **DON'T FORGET** to make your reservations by Monday, April 9th, for our Third Friends & Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 14th at 12:00 p.m. at the Larry Box Environmental Education Center. We will have a great guest speaker: Ann Smith, president of Friends of Black Bayou in Louisiana. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Henry Sansing*

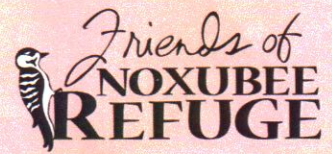
## Beyond the Boundaries

The National Wildlife Refuge Association held a Beyond the Boundaries Workshop, March 3-4, in Washington, DC. Seventy-five refuge Friends and professionals from 28 refuges participated in workshops which provided the knowledge, tools and strategies to work effectively on buffer habitat conservation. Alarmed by the loss of vital refuge buffer habitat as a result of inappropriate nearby development, competing water interests, mining, fossil-fuel extraction and spreading invasives, the NWRA launched its Beyond the Boundaries (BTB) initiative in 2005. At the workshop, participants learned from a variety of experts about land use trends and

threats to refuges and were encouraged to share their experiences - successes and failures. A series of recommendations and resources was provided to help stem the tide of urban sprawl and other threats and to conserve these unprotected lands external to refuges, for wildlife knows no boundary signs. For the NWRA it is a top priority to engage refuge Friends in conservation strategies designed to protect refuge buffer habitat and pursue landscape conservation initiatives. Jack and Jimmie Faye McCarty and Henry and Marion Sansing attended the conference and are happy to share their gained knowledge.



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

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- \* 1-year membership NWRA
- \* Noxubee News, quarterly
- \* Volunteer recognition
- \* Membership card and decal
- \* Voting privileges
- \* Quarterly meetings held on the third Thursday of January, April, June and September

2970 BLUFF LAKE ROAD  
BROOKSVILLE MS 39739

<http://Friends-of-Noxubee-Refuge.org>

For a membership application or information about the Refuge call (662) 323-5548

### EDITOR

Marion Sansing  
marionsansing@aol.com