

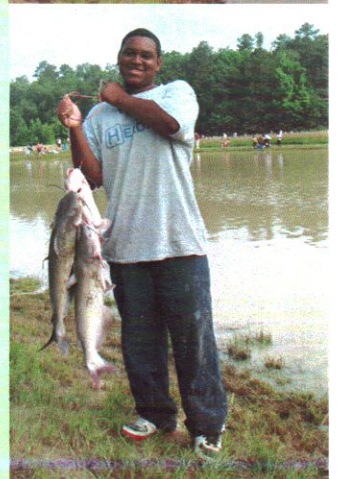
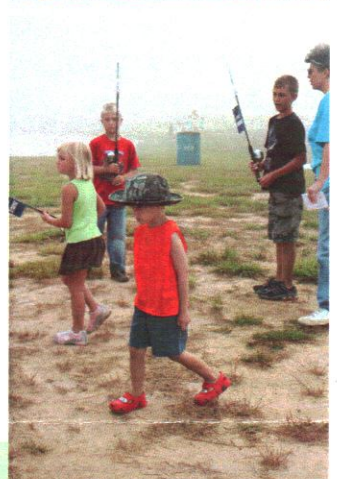
FONR Photography Contest Deadline Fast Approaching

Spend some time at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, snap a few pictures of the great scenery and spectacular wildlife, and enter our 2008 Amateur Nature Photography Contest.

Any photos taken at the Refuge between September 16, 2007, and September 15, 2008, and an entry form may be submitted by mail to: Friends of Noxubee Refuge (FONR), 2970 Bluff Lake Rd, Brooksville, MS 39739 (postmarked by September 13, 2008) or dropped off at the Refuge Visitor Center no later than September 15, 2008.

For rules, regulations and qualifications, please visit our website at <http://friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org>. Be sure and note the number of photos you can submit per category. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Visitor Center at the National Wildlife Refuge Week Celebration on Oct. 4, 2008, and will be posted on the website listed above.

Youth Fishing Derby Photos June 21



General Meeting

September 18 at 6:30 PM

Noxubee Refuge
Visitor Center

We invite you to join us for our general meeting with a presentation by Jeff Little. Jeff, who serves as director of development for the College of Forest Resources and the Bulldog Forest at Mississippi State University, works with many landowners on creative land gifting techniques. He will speak about land preservation, conservation easements, and the Bulldog Forest. As competition for land use increases, lands such as Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding areas will become more and more important for natural resources.

Following the program there will be a social gathering with refreshments. Meetings are open to the public, so bring your friends and neighbors.

NOTE: A vote will be held during the meeting to approve minor issues of clarification to the FONR bylaws. All members are urged to review the proposed changes on the website and participate in the vote.



From The President

As I write this, it is still hot but there are small signs that fall is coming. In the late afternoon, katydids are singing and garden spiders are beginning to appear in their massive webs. A cool front passed through late yesterday and today is warm but pleasant. Tonight's low is to be in the low 60s. There's still plenty of hot weather ahead but pleasant weather is not far away.

The coming changes in temperature mean visiting the Refuge will be more enjoyable than it was just a few weeks ago. I suggest you begin by checking out the improvements at Loakfoma Lake. While there's still no water, work crews have been busy digging channels, constructing an earthen fishing pier, and putting down riprap along the levee. When water returns, Loakfoma will be an excellent waterfowl area as well as an outstanding fishing lake.

The Friends group is scheduled to help construct an observation platform at the lake's edge. The heavy work is to be done by refuge staff but we will help by installing decking, railings, etc. I encourage you to become involved in this project. If actual construction is not for you, then other jobs such as carrying lumber, screws, nails, and other supplies will need to be done. The reward will be having a secluded place to observe waterfowl and other wildlife.

Other upcoming Friends activities include the quarterly meeting on September 18th, National Refuge Day on October 4th, and the photography contest. During the next few months, there is work to do and fun to have. I encourage you to participate in all of it.

I hope to see you at the Refuge.

~ Larry Box

Saturdays at the Refuge

Lately we have heard and read frequently how important it is for children to be connected with nature; some go as far as speaking of a Nature Deficiency Disorder in children. Some scientists have even greater concern for the human detachment from nature than the impact of global warming. Research shows what kinds of experiences turn children into adult conservationists. Listed in order of greatest influence they are: (1) frequent and free play in a "wild" place, (2) the influence of one or more mentors who share their own love of nature, (3) involvement with outdoor or conservation organizations, such as scouting, (4) negative environmental experiences – e.g. seeing treasured woods turned into a mall, and (5) education.

We are happy to report that our recent Saturdays at the Refuge programs were very well attended and we saw many parents and grandparents with the children. One hundred fifteen young people registered for the Sixth Annual Fishing Derby (photos on the front page by Linda Lodato). Twenty-five participants in the Mushroom Foray found thirty-three species of mushrooms, two of which were edible. Both August programs, Fun with Rocks and Minerals and Tracks, Scat and Skins, were a great success with a total of 78 attending.



Upcoming Saturday at the Refuge Events

**CSI
FOSSILS**
Sept. 6, 2008
10 a.m.

**BUGS' NIGHT
OUT**
Sept. 20, 2008
5:30 p.m.

**REFUGE WEEK
EVENT**
Oct. 4, 2008
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Save the Date

October 25, 2008

**MS Native Plant Society
will meet at the Larry Box
Conservation Center.**

**Registration opens at 8:00 AM
Field trips conclude at 4:00 PM**

The agenda will include concurrent workshops and presentations and will end with a choice of field trips to the Refuge's Scattertown Trail or to Crawford to see State Champion Oaks.

Attendees are required to join the MNPS at a cost of \$10.00 for a 1-year membership. In addition, participants will pay a pre-registration fee of \$10.00 (or \$15.00 at the door).

For more information about this action-packed event, contact Marion Sansing or Gail Barton (lgbarton@comcast.net or 601-483-3588).

Meet the Staff: Joseph (Eddie) Harsh

Born and raised in Betheden, Eddie logged as a kid with his father in and around the Refuge. He was educated in Winston County and attended College at East Central Community College and Mississippi State University, graduating cum laude in Forestry Management.



He started working at the Refuge as a Forestry Technician - Firefighter in 2006, and found he has a true love of fire. Currently Eddie is a Type I Firefighter, and by the end of the fire season, he should be well on his way to being qualified as an Engine Boss.

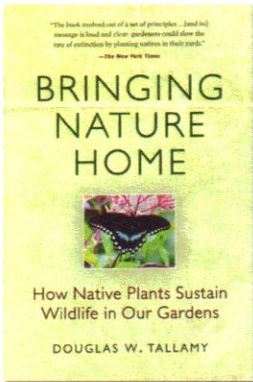
Eddie built his house himself and promises it won't be the last construction project he heads up. He enjoys life in Betheden with wife, Crystal Eaves from Louisville, and infant daughter, Lilly Grace. Hopefully, Eddie and his family will be part of our refuge family for many years.

facebook

Join our facebook group at
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=33955465623>

Book Review

by Margaret Copeland



Do you wonder how you can make a difference in encouraging healthy local ecosystems? Clearly and eloquently the answer is in the book *Bringing Nature Home* written by Douglas Tallamy, chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware.

Through his research, Tallamy has tried to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. He explains the unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife. As native plants disappear or are replaced by alien exotics, the dependent insects disappear, eliminating the food source for birds and other animals. This book clearly makes the case for keeping/replanting native plants in our yards, subdivisions, towns and cities.

Counting on biophilia (man's innate love of nature), Tallamy joins E. O. Wilson in believing that man can and will make a difference when he knows the facts! By writing this book presenting the facts, Tallamy has made a major contribution toward helping gardeners make wise plant decisions to provide a welcoming environment for wildlife of all kinds.

Purchase this book in our bookstore; read it; share it with others. Then, establish a native ecosystem in your yard and encourage your neighbors to do likewise!

Noxubee Nature Store



WHERE ALL PROFITS SUPPORT
REFUGE
PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Clay, Sand and Limestone are what most associate with Mississippi's geology, but this state is also rich in gravel.

The rocks of these gravel deposits were transported from rocky terrains north and east of Mississippi by ancient rivers as long as 90 million years ago. These Paleozoic pebbles are almost entirely composed of silica (SiO₂, quartz.) Petrified wood and fossils of the Devonian and Mississippi Ages can also be found in the gravel. The polished beads used in the Mississippi Gems jewelry are like the rocks that have been found in Mississippi gravel.

The store offers necklaces, earrings, bracelets, key chains, little girls' bracelets, and hair-ties made from carnelian, quartz, jasper, petrified wood, agate and more.

STORE HOURS
MON-FRI 8:00AM - 4:30PM
SAT 10:00AM - 4:00PM
SUN 1:00PM - 6:00PM



Manager's Corner

Summer vacation is coming to an end, and our five man YCC crew, our two STEP employees and our public-use intern are all returning to school. We wish them the best in their educational endeavors and hope to have some back next summer.

Unfortunately, general visitation to the Refuge has been down, perhaps attributable to the high cost of fuel, but the ever improving Saturdays at the Refuge programs continue to attract visitors. The "Mushroom Talk and Foray," "Fun with Rocks and Minerals," and "Tracks, Scat and Skins" brought out close to 100 individuals. So mark your calendars for the next three programs, which should be as exciting and educational. These events would not be possible without the continuing support of our partner, MSU, and its fine cadre of professors willing to develop and conduct these events. Our "hats are off" to you!

Refuge staff assisted MSU with their Natural Resource summer camp and two Wildlife and Fisheries Camps. The camps included over 90 students who had hands-on opportunities to explore nature and outdoor activities. We were also a host and sponsor of the Lepidopterists Society Annual Meeting, which brought professors from all over the United States and several countries.

Hydrilla, the exotic plant that invaded Loakfoma Lake and triggered the current rehabilitation project, has been found in Bluff Lake. The Refuge staff has begun aggressive eradication efforts and will be continually monitoring the situation. If you are interested in learning more about this plant and want to help, go to <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/volunteerstrainingmodule>.

To our Friends, volunteers, and partners, we are all stakeholders in this natural investment. We could not provide the opportunities, activities and feeling of being enriched by nature without your help and support. Thank you for your efforts, concern and thoughtfulness and I hope to see you soon on "your Refuge."

~ Henry

Noxubee Photo Wins

This egret photo, taken at Noxubee by Bill Parker of West Point, Mississippi, last October, won Honorable Mention in the "Share the Experience" Official Federal Lands Photo Contest which is administered by the National Park Foundation.



Congratulations Bill!

Friends of NOXUBEE REFUGE

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

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Your tax deductible contributions will be used to fund current and future projects & programs at Noxubee NWR. Individual memberships start at only \$15.

2970 BLUFF LAKE ROAD
 BROOKSVILLE, MS 39739

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- *Invitations to special tours, events and presentations
- *Noxubee Notes, quarterly
- *1-year membership NWRA
- *Noxubee News, quarterly
- *Volunteer recognition
- *Membership card & decal
- *Voting privileges
- *Quarterly meetings

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

EDITOR

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