

## The 2009 FONR Photography Contest Winners

### Adult Wildlife

1st - Roger Smith  
*"Rebel Yell"*



### Youth Scenery

1st - Will Edmiston  
*"Bluff Lake  
Boardwalk Area"*

### Youth Wildlife

1st - Levonte  
Montgomery  
*"Snapping Turtle"*



### Adult Scenery

1st - Bill Parker

*"Waterdrops On Spider Web"*

The 2009 FONR Photography Contest was a huge success. Thirty-one photographers entered high quality photos for our judges to deliberate over. Special thanks to our well-qualified, volunteer judges, Judy Howle, Joyce Martin, Kermit Laird, and alternate Jane Godfrey. Judy Howle is a nature and landscape photographer from Columbus, MS. Her photos have been shown in several exhibits at the Rosenzweig Art Center where she currently teaches digital photography and at Mississippi University for Women. Joyce Martin is an avid naturalist and photographer. She collaborates with her husband, in choosing photos for their books and other projects. Kermit Laird has photographed the plants, animals and landscapes of Noxubee Refuge for more than twenty years. His photographs and articles have been published in many regional and national magazines in addition to many other venues. Jane Godfrey is a self proclaimed amateur photographer, primarily taking photographs of her grandchildren but spending considerable time at Noxubee with her friend and mentor Judy Howle.



## Gwen - Best Wishes In Retirement

Gwen Cotton, the Administrative Assistant at Noxubee Refuge retired December 31, 2009 after thirty-two years with the Service. Members of FONR will certainly miss her. From FONR's inception, Gwen has been very supportive and helpful with our many activities and events. Her knowledge of "how things work" and her willingness to help have been most appreciated by the FONR volunteers. We wish her well as she enters this new phase of her life.



The Refuge will hold a retirement party for Gwen on January 14th at 5:30 p.m. at the Box Environmental Education Center on the Refuge. For additional information, or if you would like to send in comments and/or memorabilia regarding Gwen, contact Andrea Dunstan via phone (662-323-5548) or e-mail

## General Meeting

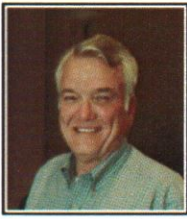
January 21  
6:30 PM

Noxubee Refuge  
Visitor Center

We invite you to join us for our general meeting with a presentation by David McEwen, "When Kodachrome Was King - Photography Then and Now." David will show a selection of his favorite photos taken over 30+ years at NNWR and discuss how both photography and the Refuge have changed during that time.

Snacks will be served afterward.





## From The President

As we start the new year and I begin my second term as president, I would like to acknowledge the accomplishments and progress that FONR has made in the past 7 years in support of our Refuge. I would also like to thank the retiring officers and board members who have made important contributions to this progress. Special thanks go to FONR's charter secretary, Margaret Copeland, who is retiring after exceptional service as our secretary since even before FONR was formally organized. We expect these retiring board members to continue to be actively involved in FONR, as they take a rest from their official duties. I would also like to thank the new officers and board members, all veteran active members of FONR, who have made a commitment to serve the organization with increased responsibilities.

We welcome active participation by all members of FONR in our many projects in support of the Refuge. Furthermore, if you are not yet a member of FONR, we hope that you will consider joining us. Be assured that you will be welcome and that we need you regardless of what your talents and experiences are. During these times when our government has had to cut appropriations to many government agencies, including the USFWS, and NNWR is seriously underfunded, FONR volunteers are more important than ever.

I look forward to working with members of FONR and the Refuge staff to make Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge an even better place of refuge for the animals and plants which need our protection.

~ by Lawrence Croft

## Eagle Update



On the date of this photograph, 12/06/09, the eagle pair visited both the old nest and the new nest foundation constructed by FONR this past fall.

Photo by Lawrence Croft.

See our Refuge online with Google Earth!

## 2nd Place Photographs

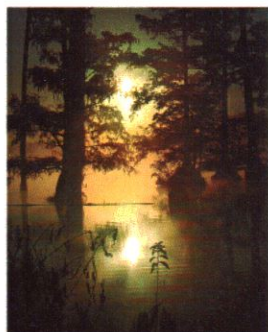


**Adult Wildlife**  
Bill Parker  
*"King Snake"*

**Youth Scenery**  
Jamie Anthony  
*"Sunset Reflections"*



**Youth Wildlife**  
Hanna Edmiston  
*"Think Green"*



**Adult Scenery** - Roger Smith  
*"A Moment That Makes Life Worth Living"*

## Google Earth

Friends NewsWire

Google Earth allows users to display high-resolution aerial and satellite imagery of virtually any place on earth – and now the boundaries of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The basic free version of Google Earth includes dozens of data layers with an assortment of mapping information such as roads, geographic pictures, famous places, businesses, 3D buildings and picture galleries. When a layer is turned on, icons appear with links to additional information.

To view the Refuge System, first download the most recent version of Google Earth from <http://earth.google.com/index.html> and click "download Google Earth 5.0.": To activate the Refuge System boundaries, in the "layers" panel on the bottom left of the screen, scroll down to "places of interest" and click the plus sign (+) to expand the list. Scroll down again to the "parks and recreation areas" and expand this list. Click in the empty box to the left of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Refuge System boundaries are now turned on.



## 3rd Place Photos



**Youth Wildlife**  
3rd - Warren Smith  
*"Heron in the Mist"*



**Youth Scenery**  
3rd - Joseph  
MacGown  
*"Misty Morning"*



**Adult Wildlife**  
3rd - Kye Clearman  
*"Muskrat"*



**Adult Scenery**  
3rd - Ronald Losure  
*"Water Lily Flower"*

## Gaining Ground

A group of MSU, community and business leaders is working together on founding a center for sustainability in Starkville. The intent will be focused on improving the quality of life through sustainable choices for all in Mississippi. Educational hands-on opportunities will be centered around housing, job training, organic food production and sustainable living. The group will host a retreat at the Refuge visitor center on January 23 to discuss strategy, build a core group and formulate goals. The center will be called "Gaining Ground Sustainability Institute of Mississippi". The group is in the process of forming a 501(c)3 and getting a website up and running. The web address is [www.gaininggroundmississippi.org](http://www.gaininggroundmississippi.org). If you would like to be involved you can contact Alison Buehler at [aeramp@yahoo.com](mailto:aeramp@yahoo.com).



*Visitors at Noxubee make wreaths for the holidays.*  
Photo by Andrea Dunstan, 12/05/09.

~ by Marion Sansing

## Stepping Down

The old expression about time going by rapidly when you are having fun comes to mind as I begin writing my final "message" for the newsletter. In many ways it seems just a few months ago that I began my turn as president, but it has been two years. I am, however, looking forward to passing the position on to Lawrence Croft. He will carry the organization forward and I will enjoy being a worker with fewer leadership roles.

The big unknown of recent months has been the question of which nest the eagles will select. We hoped it would be the new site FONR prepared for them and I have had a report of one of them sitting on a limb at the site and giving it a visual inspection. Recently, however, one has been sitting in the old nest and appears to be in the process of selecting it for the nesting season. There is real concern that the tree will not survive the spring storm season but we must let nature take its course. If the tree does fall after the young hatch, we are working on a plan to place the babies in the new nest.

Winter is an excellent time to visit the refuge. I suggest you visit in the late afternoon. As the sun begins to set in the west and the waterfowl begin returning to the lake for the night, it creates a "calendar picture" scene to remember.

As I end my time as president, I thank each of you for helping with the various projects we have done during the past two years. I also thank Henry Sansing and the refuge staff for being supportive of FONR. By combining the efforts of all of us, we have provided enjoyable educational experiences and expanded public awareness of the importance of Noxubee Refuge.

~ by Larry Box



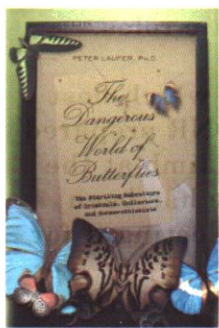
This holiday season, create lifetime memories and establish new family traditions by getting outdoors with your camera and capturing photos of yourself and your family and friends exploring nature. Visit a National Wildlife Refuge, a National Fish Hatchery or your own “wildlife” neighborhood. Then share your best photos with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its Let’s Go Outside photo project, which already has more than 4,000 images.

All digital photos uploaded to the image mosaic will help compose an outdoor image. When viewed from a distance, the photo mosaic appears to be a single image. But closer examination reveals that it’s made up of thousands of smaller photos.

Here’s all you have to do:

1. Head for the outdoors – whether a National Wildlife Refuge or elsewhere – and bring your camera.
2. Photograph a friend or family member enjoying an outdoor activity. Or have someone snap a photo of you.
3. Send in your photo, following the instructions on the “Let’s Go Outside” Web site: <http://yououtdoors.org/>
4. To learn about outdoor opportunities and activities you can participate in, including the basics of digital nature photography, go to <http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside>; or [http://www.fws.gov/refuges/SpecialEvents/FWS\\_SpecialEvents\\_Search.cfm](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/SpecialEvents/FWS_SpecialEvents_Search.cfm)

## Book Review: The Dangerous World of Butterflies



Is the world of butterflies dangerous? Peter Laufer journeys into the butterfly world in *The Dangerous World of Butterflies: The Startling Subculture of Criminals, Collectors, and Conservationists*, finding that the world of these exquisite insects can be dangerous. His journey takes him across continents to butterfly preserves, farms, museums, bug fairs, and prisons. He talks with breeders, conservationists, collectors, entomologists, and smugglers as he learns about the

butterfly industry, both legal and underground.

The book spans a two year period during which Laufer’s travels take him throughout the Americas and beyond, giving a look into a world filled with intrigue and greed. Well documented and readable, the book could use photographs of the beautiful butterflies that are mentioned in the text. However, as the dust jacket states, this is “a true tale of beauty and obsession, smugglers and scientists, and nature’s most enigmatic creature.”

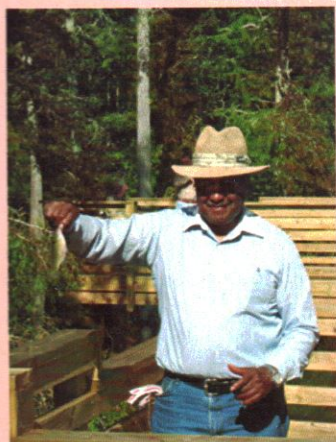
~ by Florence Box

## FONR Life Members

Michael & Alison Buehler  
Margaret Copeland  
Barbara Crawford  
Lawrence & Elsie Croft  
Elna Ezell  
Jerry & Bette Jackson  
Richard Kaminski  
Buddy Laird  
Rod Moore  
Lyle Nelson  
David Palmer  
Henry & Marion Sansing  
Fred & Julie Smith  
Bob & Anne Thompson  
Jimmie & Jacque Tisdale  
Sheldon Webster



The ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new boardwalk (10/3/09). Photos by Roger Smith.



Leon Bounds makes the first catch off of the boardwalk.

## New Friends

On October 17, twenty-six members of Kappa Alpha Order at Mississippi State University volunteered their services on a variety of Refuge projects. These details included picking up litter along eight miles of road, weeding native plant and bird gardens, installing two (16 foot long) foot bridges on the Craig Pond Trail and clearing 1.25 miles of trail. All-in-all, it was a very productive day! The KA Order became a Friends of Noxubee Refuge Corporate Sponsor and hopes to make this an annual service project. We really appreciate all the help and look forward to working with them in the future.

## Upcoming Events

January 16

### IDENTIFYING AND ATTRACTING BACKYARD BIRDS

Meet at the nature center, 1:30 p.m.

February 6

### THE GLORIOUS ORION NEBULA: A NEARBY STELLAR NURSERY

Edwin Faughn, Assistant director at the Rainwater Observatory will present this family program at the Nature Center at 5:30 p.m. After the talk, weather permitting, there will be an observing session when you can learn how to find this star forming region in the sky and see it up close through some of the observatory's portable telescopes.

February 20 and March 6

### ANNUAL BLUEBIRD WORKSHOP

We hope to encourage young birders by inviting parents to bring their children to this workshop. The day includes an information session on the Eastern Bluebird, a video and building a bluebird box to take home. Come out and join the fun and maybe learn a few things too! 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Call for reservations as space is limited.



Mike Ferril, fraternity President, along with other representatives of the Kappa Alpha Order at Mississippi State University gives a check to the FONR President, Dr. Larry Box. Photo by Kimberly Sykes

## Noxubee Nature Store

WHERE ALL PROFITS SUPPORT REFUGE PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

### NEW MERCHANDISE

We have a wide variety of new items that might spark your interest in the Nature Store. Peggy Guyton has recently donated several homemade aprons.



We also have many new books, more suet logs,



many carved wooden toys and knickknacks.



### STORE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
SATURDAY  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
SUNDAY  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.





## Manager's Corner

Everything changes just like the seasons and winter is definitely here. I want to thank our outgoing officers and board members for their steadfast support and leadership over the last two years. Also, I certainly look forward to working with the new Friends officers and board members as we move into 2010. I think we will continue doing good things as a group in the coming year and hope some new ideas and initiatives come along with our new leadership.

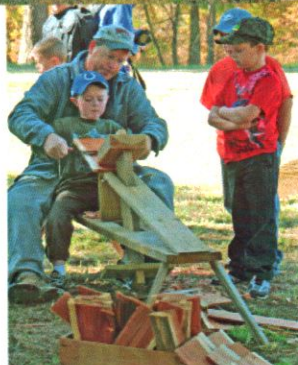
Changes are also coming to the Refuge as Gwen Cotton is retiring after 32 years as the Administrative assistant. Gwen will be taking a wealth of know-how and history with her as she goes out the door. I wish her the very best and hope not to "bug" her too much for information once she leaves us. Our fire management officer position is also still vacant and I am hoping to have some candidates for that position as well as Gwen's upcoming vacancy early into next year.

The hunts are progressing smoothly with average numbers of deer being harvested. The somewhat mild weather has played a factor in hunter success not living up to last years record season harvest. We will have to wait and see if the second season picks up. Waterfowl season is also running about average with Wood Ducks making up most hunters limits. Squirrel hunting has been reported to be better than usual this year with many hunters getting their limits on several occasions.

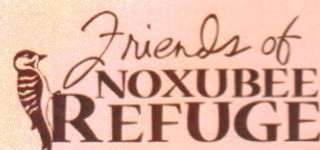
The continued wet weather has halted most outdoor work projects, most notably our road maintenance and repair. As such, when journeying on many of the Refuge gravel roads be careful, and drive slowly, as many are pot-hole laden and are in need of grading and leveling. We will fix these as soon as the weather permits, but if a prolonged period occurs expect some temporary road closures.

~ Henry R. Sansing

## Pioneer Day (11/07/09)



Photos by Lawrence Croft



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

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Gale Hagood	Secretary
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Individual memberships start at only \$15.  
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 BROOKSVILLE, MS 39739

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

### EDITOR

Susan E. Brooks susan.e.brooks@gmail.com

### FONR LIFE MEMBERS

Please see the insert page for a current listing.