



## Friends Regional Conference

In April, John and Peggy Guyton, Henry and Marion Sansing, and Jason and Bonnie Hunnicutt attended the Southeast Regional Friends Conference in Crystal River, Florida. The Conference

included informative workshops which highlighted programs from around the southeast such as the Citizen Science and Master Naturalist Programs. Examples given of successful Citizen Science programs included Project Bud Burst, USGS Amphibian Monitoring, and Cornell's various birding programs. The Florida Master Naturalists Program was very interesting and could be useful as a basis to expand on our own successful Junior Ranger Program. Educational sessions were also provided on important topics such as invasive species, landscape conservation and climate change.

However, the best attended and most active sessions were those involving education programs for adults and youth. During the closing function it was evident that Friends groups throughout the southeast region felt great pride in their youth programs, holding them up as vitally important.

## Noxubee Oral History Project

The Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge is a special place for many people who have visited, live or have lived in this region of Mississippi. This year, the Friends of Noxubee Refuge are beginning an oral history project. We will record and collect the stories told by anyone willing to participate of their memories and perceptions of the refuge. The project will include digital voice and/or video recordings of interviews and stories as well as photographs and other relevant documents.

If you are interested in either sharing your memories about the refuge, or know of someone we should add to our list of contributors, let us know. Additionally, if you are interested in helping with the project, please contact Florence Box ([fbox6895@yahoo.com](mailto:fbox6895@yahoo.com)), Susan Brooks ([susan.e.brooks@gmail.com](mailto:susan.e.brooks@gmail.com)), or Jan Bryant ([jcb34@msstate.edu](mailto:jcb34@msstate.edu)).



## FONR Display at Noxubee County Library

If you are in the Macon area, stop by the Noxubee County Library to see the Friends of Noxubee Refuge display. Also take this opportunity to explore the library which was once the county jail. The display will be there until the end of June.



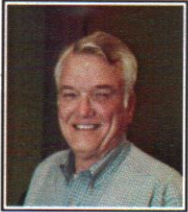
## General Meeting

June 17  
6:30 PM

### Noxubee Refuge Visitor Center

We invite you to join us for our general meeting with a presentation by Dr. John Hodges, Emeritus Professor of Forestry at Mississippi State University. The title of his talk is "Some thoughts on the origin and history of Noxubee Refuge and Cooperation with the MSU College of Forestry"

Snacks will be served afterward.



## From The President

The weather has warmed up, plants are blooming, and lots of birds are back from their winter vacations down south. It's a great time to visit Noxubee Refuge. So, check our website for the rules of the annual photo contest, grab your camera, and bring your family out and have fun.

I'm pleased to report that we have lots of interesting events scheduled for the rest of this year. Our membership meeting later this month will feature a presentation by Dr. John Hodges on the origin and history of NNWR. This is very timely as FONR now also has an enthusiastic group of members actively working on the oral history project.

Bob Thompson has reported that the Trailwalkers team is coming along very nicely with several people joining the team. Refuge Manager Henry Sansing indicates that we will need several "Work Days at the Refuge" this summer to finish some projects. So, please watch for announcements in the newspaper and regularly check our website for schedules for these opportunities to help. Peggy Guyton has volunteered to be on the Highway 25 Trash Pick-up Team, and now that the weather seems to have settled down we will be scheduling our first pick-up of the year soon. If you would like to help Peggy and me with this task, please let her know.

The MWF Conservation Education Award was placed in a transparent trophy case while on display at NNWR. On behalf of FONR I would like to thank Jimmy Cole at Boardtown Trading Post for donating the case and Peggy Guyton for making the needed modifications to the case. Check it out the next time you are at the Visitor Center.

Congratulations to long-time NNWR volunteer and FONR charter member and long-time secretary Margaret Copeland, who recently received The National Audubon Society's 2010 Callison Award. The Callison Award recognizes excellence in environmental policy achievements, creativity, coalition-building, education, and outreach.

Our next Noxubee Notes will not be published until early September just before our fall membership meeting so please regularly check our website for current information about FONR activities. Thanks for your membership in and support of FONR.

## Visit our Nature Store

WHERE ALL PROFITS SUPPORT REFUGE PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

### STORE HOURS

MON-FRI 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

SAT 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

SUN 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM



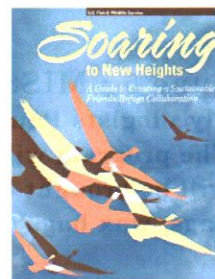
## Earth Day Promotes Noxubee

For the second year, Friends of Noxubee Refuge participated in the April 22 Earth Day celebration on the Mississippi State University campus. The FONR booth had as its central attraction the portable display of photographs of activities at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. Copies of the last two Noxubee Notes newsletters, membership brochures, and a wide selection of brochures from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were distributed. FONR volunteers who staffed the booth throughout the day included Gale Hagood, Jim Tisdale, Larry Box, Joe Mulrooney, and Lawrence Croft. These volunteers interacted with a large number of interested visitors, answered questions, and distributed many brochures. The volunteers felt this was a worthwhile activity and recommend that we participate again next year in the third annual Earth Day celebration.



Activities such as the Earth Day booth help by raising public awareness of the refuge and the educational opportunities available there. Proof of that is Neva McMinn's English as a Second Language class at MSU (photo above). After seeing the refuge booth McMinn had her class tour the refuge as an opportunity to practice speaking English. On the tour, led by Joe Mulrooney, the class members visited displays in the Visitor Center, the eagle's nest, the goose overlook, and boardwalks.

# Soaring to New Heights: A Guide to Creating a Sustainable Friends/Refuge Collaboration



“I can’t imagine managing a refuge without a Friends group. It’s the best thing we’ve ever done.” So said Dave Hilley, manager of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, KS, setting the tone for the newest publication for Friends from the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Soaring to New Heights provides 104 pages of inspiration, case studies and practical advice organized by five key elements of success:

- 1- A Solid Collaboration – building trust, creating a shared vision and sharing power
- 2- Strategic Thinking – planning for the future and evaluating progress
- 3- A Well-Managed Organization – building a board, committees and meetings, membership development, finances, resiliency
- 4- Understanding FWS Systems and Nonprofit Management
- 5- Celebrate and Evaluate

Soaring to New Heights is available online at [www.fws.gov/refuges/publications](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/publications). Chapters may be downloaded, searched and printed individually or as a complete document.

Friends NewsWire

## Online Flower Guide

If you have not found your way to [southeasternflora.com](http://southeasternflora.com) now would be a good time with the roadsides in full bloom. John Gwaltney, President and CEO of Forestry Suppliers, has produced an exciting native plant identification guide with over 1,100 native species and 16,100 pictures of trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants. It is easy to use and its indexing capabilities are very useful. Enter a few traits of the plant you wish to identify and the site generates some pictures to consider. You can even save a picture while looking at other options. Novices will enjoy the glossary to refresh their memory of leaf types, arrangements and other items. If you need a quick picture to go with a scientific or common name, photographs are also available.

And now, with the new smart phones you are able to save this site as a favorite or bookmark it and you always have a great native plant guide in your pocket! Sound good? Go ahead grab your smart phone and head outdoors.



## 2010 Duck Stamp Available June 25

## Ladies Bait Your Hook

The Ladies’ Bait Your Hook program held Saturday, May 15 at Noxubee was another huge success this year. Twenty-four women enjoyed a morning of fishing and fun with some assistance from Friends members and Refuge staff.



Our next general meeting is September 16, 2010.

# Saturdays At The Refuge

**June 5 - MISSISSIPPI'S EDIBLE & OTHER MUSHROOMS - 8:30 a.m.**

Mycologists Paul Scott and Bill Starrett will discuss mushroom identification and collecting techniques. The program will include a 1/2 hour talk followed by a two hour walk in the woods. Afterwards, any finds will be brought back to the visitor center for further identification. Useful items to bring: basket, paper bags, wax bags or wax paper, camera, pocket knife, & mushroom field guide.



**June 19 - Youth Fishing Derby**



The eighth annual derby will be held at our two fishing ponds, stocked with catfish for the event. Their grassy banks make fishing safe and easy. Children ages four through fifteen must pre-register to participate, or may register the morning of the derby, if our limit has not been met. There are two types of registration: \$10 with a rod & reel provided or \$5 without. Prizes will be awarded in all age categories for the largest fish and the heaviest stringer of fish. Each registered child will receive a goodie bag and a prize.

**July 3 - CANOEING AT BLUFF LAKE - 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.**

Canoes, life jackets and paddles will be available for you to take out on Bluff Lake at no charge. This is a great opportunity to explore canoeing, the rookery and the cypress stands. Canoes will be launched next to the Bluff Lake boat ramp near the spillway.



**July 17 - FUN WITH ROCKS AND MINERALS - 9:30 a.m.**

We will explore crystals that glow, minerals that explode and rocks that have recorded history, just to name a few! Come join us to explore the many ways rocks and minerals touch our lives every day!

**August 7 - OUR HOME GALAXY SHINES DOWN ON US - 7:00 p.m.**

Because of light pollution, most people have never seen the Milky Way from their homes. After a presentation by James Hill, director of the Rainwater Observatory, participants will be able to view objects in the spiral arms of the galaxy.

**August 21 - BUTTERFLY TOUR - 11:00 a.m.**

Summer is a great time to see butterflies. Binoculars are available or bring your own. Meet at the end of Keaton Tower Road.



**September 4 - BUGS, DAY AND NIGHT - 3:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.**

Join us for a buggy day and night of collecting and identification. We will start with an introduction to the insects of the season. Later, we will visit some black light collection sites and demonstrate how to collect and classify. Although insects are plentiful, we will avoid collecting rare or unusual species.

**September 18 - MAKING & PLAYING INSTRUMENTS FROM NATURE**

Presentation by Dr. Robert Damm. Registration is required. more details to follow

**October 2 - NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK EVENT - 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

National Wildlife Refuge Week recognizes the wonders and significance of our Nation's 548 Wildlife Refuges. This informative event is free to the public and will feature many exhibits, demonstrations, children's activities and live music.

**October 16 - NIGHT OUT ON THE REFUGE - 6:30 p.m.**

Visit the Refuge after hours to see and hear some of the nocturnal wildlife. Learn fun facts about owls, hear their calls, and maybe even see alligators' eyes glow in the night. Reservations are required as space is limited.

**November 6 - WEATHER FORECASTING - 9:30 a.m.**

**November 20 - CAMPFIRE STORIES AND MUSIC - 4:30 p.m.**



**December 4 - NATURE CRAFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS - 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.**

## Meet The Board: Joe Mulrooney

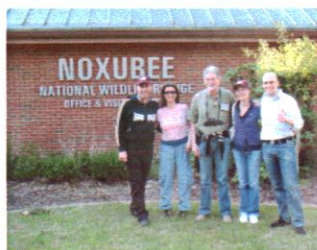
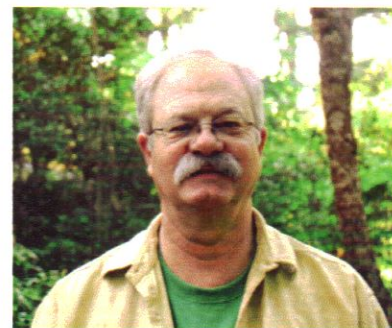
Joe was born in Chicago and grew up in Memphis. He completed his bachelor's degree from Rhodes College in Memphis after he served in the Navy on the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk during the Vietnam War. In 1977, he moved to Starkville and earned a Master's degree in Pest Management at MSU. He then worked for the University of Arkansas Extension Service in Helena, Arkansas before returning to MSU in 1980 to earn his Ph.D. in Entomology while working at the Agricultural Research Service's Crop Science Laboratory. In 1990, he took a position as a Research Entomologist at the Research Lab in Stoneville. Then, in 2000 he returned to Starkville as a Research Entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service's Termite Research Unit.

Joe and his wife Camille have been married 35 years and have two sons, Joe (III) and Pete. Joe works as a project manager for WebMD in Atlanta and Pete owns Rooney's Barber Shop in Starkville. Pete and his wife Niki, a science teacher at Armstrong Middle School, have four sons, Alex (10), McKee (7), Ward (2), and Gray (2 months). Joe loves to share his love of nature and Noxubee Refuge with his grandsons, a lesson taken to heart by Alex, who recently had a Refuge themed birthday party.

Joe has been involved with FONR since its inception in 2003. He served as FONR's second president and currently serves as chairman of the Public Relations Committee. He enjoys riding his bike along refuge roads, hiking the trails, and kayaking Bluff Lake. Joe has also been looking at the refuge from another vantage point. Recently he and member Gerald McKibben took some flights over the refuge in Gerald's RV-6 airplane. However, one of his favorite things is to simply place a folding chair in the woods, sit and contemplate God's creation, a spiritual experience that he says he simply cannot find in any church.

Since his retirement in January 2009, Joe has also been taking art classes at MSU. He intends to use art as a means of enhancing his love of nature. Joe states, "Drawing and painting nature forces one to look intently at it in order to represent it on paper." Aside from his art, this multi-talented retiree enjoys reading, playing guitar, mandolin, harmonica, and the dulcimer and has been a member of the St. Joseph Church choir since 1984.

*Below is a photo taken at the tree planting ceremony in honor of, FONR past president, Larry Box on May 29. This yellow poplar was planted after the Annual Friends and Volunteer luncheon.*



## Exchange Group Visits Noxubee

On April 17, Jim Tisdale and Larry Box led a tour of Noxubee Refuge for a Rotary

Group Study Exchange Team from Italy. Pictured are team leader Franco Docchio, and members Serena Giuliano, Alessandro Copeta, Simona Gentilini, Simone Stancari. The eagles put on a great display and one provided excellent picture opportunities at the nest. This made for a good time for our visitors from abroad.



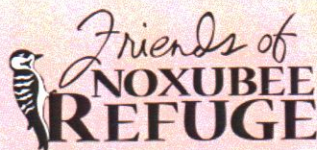
## Manager's Corner

Now that things have dried up a bit, a lot of work has begun at the refuge. We completed prescribed burns on 2,100 acres and are currently repairing 14 miles of interior roads. Unfortunately, our beloved River Road is officially closed to the public because the Noxubee River has consumed a portion of it. The Winston County partnership contract opens this month for the paving of Loakfoma Road to Highway 25. The project should be completed by summer's end. Hopefully, by the end of this summer, all of the road work will be completed and a smooth ride will be shared by all. Just bear with us as road blocks come and go throughout the next few months.

The vacant prescribed fire specialist position was filled by Paul Reynolds, a 20+ year veteran of the U.S. Forest Service. Paul brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to the Refuge. We are certainly lucky to have recruited such a fine candidate.

Staff around Noxubee and within the Refuge System will become scarce as we are being impacted by the call for emergency service to the Gulf Coast because of the tragedy unfolding from the explosion and sinking of BP's Deep Water Horizon. Currently 160 regional staff are on site with that number anticipated to double as employees rotate in and out for a few months. Noxubee has two staff members already serving, two preparing to serve and six on call. As such, it may get tough this summer and I may be calling for your help.

It is with pride that one of our Friends' volunteers, John Guyton, and one of the refuge employees, Billy Gillespie, received awards on May 13, at The Directors Honor Award Ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia. John was recognized for his contributions to the Saturdays at the Refuge programs and Billy received the coveted Wage Grade Employee of the Year Award. If you see these guys give them a thank you for all of their hard work. I certainly appreciate it.



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

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

*Contributions to this newsletter were made by Frank Bonner, Florence Box, Larry Box, Janis Bryant, Lawrence Croft, Andrea Dunstan, John Guyton, Peggy Guyton, Joe Mulrooney, Henry Sansing, Marion Sansing, and Jacque Tisdale.*