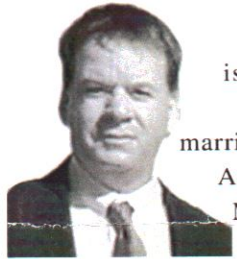


Election Time Nears

The upcoming election of Friends of Noxubee Refuge officers and members of the board of directors will select leaders to guide the organization for two years, beginning January 2008. The following slate of officers will be presented:

Officers		Directors at Large	
President	Larry Box	Frank Bonner	Lawrence Croft
Vice-President	Jack McCarty	Gale Hagood	Buddy Laird
Secretary	Margaret Copeland	Linda Lodato	John Long
Treasurer	Sherrie Wiygul		

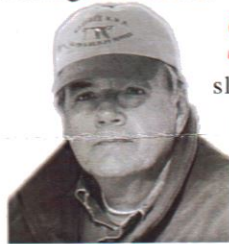
Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the general meeting. The immediate past president, newsletter editor and Nature Store committee chairperson are also voting members of the board.



Jack McCarty is a lifelong resident of Starkville and is married to Jimmie Faye. After graduating from MSU in Agriculture, he worked for the

USDA's Boll Weevil Eradication Program. Later, he took a position with MSU's Office of Agricultural Development. From there Jack went to work for Ducks Unlimited as a fund-raiser. Recently, he has taken a position as the Director of Development for the College of Business and Industry at MSU. He has served on the Board of

Rose Society. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and travel.



Some people never slow down. Dr. Larry Box is one of those people. He was raised on his family's homesite

close to the Refuge and spent his childhood (and now his adulthood) exploring this area, even helping with the construction of Loakfoma Lake. An avid outdoorsman, he hunts and fishes, both locally and on trips "up North." He has made a successful transition

GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 6:30 P.M.

We invite you to join us for our general meeting with a presentation from Margaret Copeland on Fabulous Flying Jewels. Learn about the migration, habits and needs of summer and winter hummingbirds in our area. There will be a social gathering with refreshments afterwards. You may bring a friend; meetings are open to the public. The board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the refuge conference room. All board meetings are open to current members of Friends of Noxubee Refuge.

AT THE VISITOR CENTER

from being the Superintendent of Starkville Public Schools to a retired, busy community-oriented volunteer. His expertise in both wildlife matters and budget have been a great asset to our ever expanding organization. And he is always helping with the less glamorous tasks -- picking up trash, spreading mulch, or cleaning fish at the "Ladies, Bait Your Hook" program.

Going Green

Does your vote count in an election? Does your CFL bulb make a difference? You bet and so does recycling! Recycling conserves resources, prevents emissions of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants, saves energy, supplies valuable raw materials to industry, creates jobs, stimulates the development of greener technologies and reduces the need for new landfills and incinerators. Find out if there is a recycling center in your community. Starkville residents can drop their recyclable



goods at Starkville Recycling at 211C.C. Clark Rd., off Miley Dr. The following items are accepted:

Newspapers: no bags or string

Cardboard Boxes: 3-layer card-

board with honeycomb middle; no wax-coated boxes. Remove all packaging materials and flatten. Clear tape accepted; no duct tape.

White Office Paper: No staples, etc.

Mixed Paper: magazines, catalogs, phone books, brown paper, envelopes with plastic windows and cereal boxes.

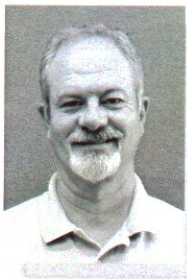
Aluminum & Steel Cans: Rinse well and flatten. Recycling aluminum cans saves 95% of the energy

make aluminum cans from scratch!

Plastics: 1, 2 & 3 plastic containers and plastic bags separately.

Scrapmetal and Computers are also accepted.

Starkville Recycling has an account set up for FONR. If you bring aluminum cans during business hours, you may go to the office and **donate your proceeds from the aluminum to FONR**. And remember: choose reusable goods, buy recyclable goods, avoid extra packaging, buy only what you need and start a compost pile. I am going to find a better use for my soap box now.
Marion



President's Report

Uuu weeee, it's hot. Lady Noxubee is sizzling. Outdoor activity on the Refuge has just about come to a halt. I recently tried out my new fishing kayak on Bluff Lake late one afternoon. The water was warm as a bath.

Last Saturday, August 11, I only saw two boats when I drove in to man the Visitor Center. Since the last newsletter, Saturdays at the Refuge programs have continued to be well attended. This year's Ladies, Bait Your Hook program was once again a success. Twenty-two ladies had a very enjoyable time testing their newly learned angling skills. Two weeks later, activity around the ponds was again hot and heavy at the Youth Fishing Derby. Around 90 kids tried luck landing the big one. The warm temperatures made the fishing slow, but in spite of poor fishing conditions, there were many nice stringers of catfish weighed in at the end of the morning. On July 7, young photographers were given the opportunity to learn about nature photography. This hands-on workshop taught 22 kids how to look more carefully at the world around them and capture the beauty of the Refuge. Unfortunately the rain was relentless that day, but most kids had great fun anyway. Their work was displayed at the Starkville Public Library the month of August and can now be see at the Refuge. Fifty-eight visitors enjoyed free canoeing in the calm waters of Bluff Lake on July 21, one of our most popular Saturday programs. The blossoms on the lily pads and the activity in the egret rookery provided those venturing out on the water with great opportunities. On August 4, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rachel Carson with a video on her life and a forum on environmental issues. John Guyton's Fun with Plants on August 18 was well attended and truly fun, but also very educational don't miss it next time.



Photo: Joe Ferguson

This will be my last report as President of FONR; we will hold elections at our next meeting. I have enjoyed working with the members of the Board in trying to better our organization, and I appreciate their input during the last two years. I am especially grateful for the efforts of Marion Sansing, who works non-stop in just about every aspect of this organization. I also appreciate the efforts of the Financial Committee, Sherrie Wiygul, Margaret Copeland, and Larry Box, to get our finances in order. Special thanks go to Florence Box and Vera Taylor for the operation of the Nature Store and for making it the showplace that it is. I am very appreciative of the efforts of Frank Bonner, who has done a tremendous amount of work on the Watson Trail. Thanks also to those members who have given their time in our Saturday Programs,

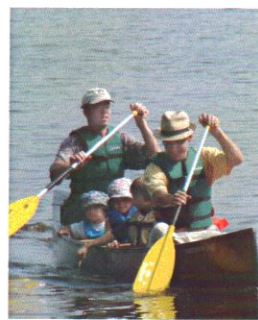


Photo: Lawrence Croft

work days, and manning the Visitor Center, especially Barbara Crawford. Lastly, I appreciate the counsel of Lawrence Croft, our past president, which has made my job much easier. I also want to thank Henry Sansing and his staff for their support of FONR and for their dedication to making the

Refuge a place where people from our community can come and be rejuvenated by the beauty of Noxubee. See you on the Refuge.

Joe Mulrooney

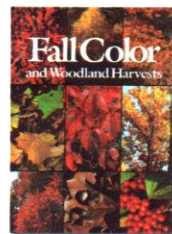
Purchase a Duck Stamp

Buying a \$15 Migratory Bird & Conservation Stamp is one of the most efficient ways to support wildlife conservation and the Refuge System. More than 98 cents of each dollar goes directly to purchase critical federal refuge habitat that will be protected in perpetuity. The stamp is required for waterfowl hunting and provides free entry to any refuge that charges admission. To acquire yours go to: <http://www.duckstamp.com> or <http://shop.usps.com>



Book Review

During those occasional autumns when Mississippi trees show that they can display brilliant colors, identification questions can arise. **Fall Color and Woodland Harvests; A Guide to the More Colorful Fall Leaves and Fruits of the Eastern Forests** can answer those questions. The brief introductory section of **Fall Color**



includes explanations on why we have fall color and where to find it. The main section contains colorful photos of fall leaves with easily understandable descriptions of the leaves, as well as their scientific

The final section on woodland harvests pictures fruits and seeds with brief descriptive notes. An outgrowth of a public service program of the North Carolina Botanical Gardens, the paper-

back book includes trees from throughout the southeast and is small enough to carry in a backpack. A glossary, keys, and appendices include information on leaf identification, sources of fall color information, and daylight and temperature charts. The leaf code glossary is particularly useful. When taking an autumn excursion, **Fall Color** is a good resource to have available. Copies are available at Noxubee Nature Store for \$18.95.

Meet the Refuge Staff – Andrea Dunstan



Noxubee Refuge employee Andrea Dunstan has two position titles. Officially a Park Ranger, Andrea believes using the more commonly known title of Public Use Specialist more precisely describes her position. Andrea says her job encompasses anything that deals with the public. She does signage, brochures, exhibits, the newsletter, environmental education and special presentations/programs for visiting groups. Additionally, Andrea is a troubleshooter for problems with the refuge office computers. Accepting a duty that came to her by default, Andrea enjoys com-

puter challenges but readily admits some problems require services of the "help desk." A 20-year employee with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Andrea held similar positions at Tennessee NWR and St. Marks NWR (FL) before coming to Noxubee in 1997. When asked what about her job excites her, Andrea said, "I love to see children enjoying the outdoors-having fun while learning new things. Their excitement in discovery is contagious." She added, "Also, I couldn't ask for a more perfect place to work. Who could ask for better scenery than seeing a bald eagle soaring overhead, or a mink running across the road, or an alligator cruising in the lake?" Some of Andrea's hobbies have been put on hold while she and her husband, Michael, focus on their two children, Jacob and Katie. An avid snake fan, Andrea is limiting her snake collection to the ones she keeps at work for use in educational programs. Other hobbies taking a back seat for a while include baking and

making wine. She continues collecting shells, rocks, antique souvenir spoons and bottles, and readily admits to being a "pack rat." As the public outreach person, Andrea works alongside volunteers on many Friends projects while developing and presenting Refuge-sponsored programs. Two of her most popular public programs are the Owl Prowl nighttime walk and the Youth Fishing Derby. She also serves as the Refuge representative on the FONR Board of Directors. The one thing Andrea wishes Friends would do? Keep up with and report volunteer hours. The Refuge receives increased recognition and funding based on volunteer hours; so, it is a very relevant request. Andrea attended Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton, Georgia, receiving an associate degree in Wildlife Technology. Moving to the South, and in particular Georgia, was a drastic change for Andrea. She was born and raised in the arid Southwest (NM, NV & AZ). Park Ranger or Public Use Specialist, Andrea Dunstan is a public "face" of the Refuge, and we appreciate her.

NOXUBEE NATURE STORE

WHERE ALL PROFITS SUPPORT REFUGE PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Come and see our new and appealing arrangement in the Nature Store. A nice wooden hutch now displays many of the smaller items. We would like to thank Designers Gallery of Starkville (201 East Hwy 12), who worked with us on obtaining this beautiful piece of furniture.

You will also find a new line of small, educational and inexpensive items for children and a few new book titles, two of which were published by local photographers, James & Joyce Martin.

Notes Go Online

To help FONR save on postage/mail-cost, please notify Marion Sansing at: marionsansing@bellsouth.net, if you wish to receive **Noxubee Notes** (4 issues/year) by email as a weblink.

Saturdays at the Refuge

- SEPTEMBER 15, 10 a.m. Auditorium** Alligators in Illinois? A wonderful presentation by the MS Museum of Natural Science with live alligators.
- OCTOBER 6, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Pioneer Day with hands-on activities, exhibits and demonstrations.
- OCTOBER 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** National Refuge Week Event Celebration, a great family fun day, with lots of activities and exhibits.

Every first & third Saturday of the month, programs are made possible with help of Friends of Noxubee Refuge and are free of charge, unless stated otherwise. Check our website, a local newspaper, or call (662) 323-5548. Activities identified with the blue badge are also part of the Jr. Refuge Ranger program.

- NOVEMBER 3, 2 p.m. Auditorium** Elementary light and optics
- NOVEMBER 17, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Nature Crafts for the Holidays and the first day of our Christmas Tree Sale
- DECEMBER 1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Preparation for the Junior Duck Stamp Contest: It is all about art, science, wetlands and waterfowl conservation.
- DECEMBER 15, 2:30 p.m.** Story Time for Children



From the Refuge Manager

The hot and dry summer and spring droughts have taken a toll on the forested habitats around us.

It looks like fall already, and a lot of trees are dying. Usually after a severe drought you can have tree mortality for up to three years. With two dry years in a row now, we will see the effects for several years.

All the work of refuge supporters across the nation has truly paid off. It appears that our funding for 2008 will be at the necessary level to sustain and help improve our Refuge System. The work-force-planning is being re-visited and the Service is looking at refunding lost and needed positions. Thank you to all friends groups for your dedicated support and loud voice that was heard in the Capitol.

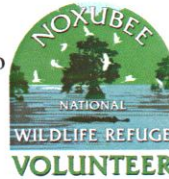
Work is continuing across the Refuge, but two of our major projects have been slow in coming. The paving and bridge re-placement on Loakfoma and Lynn Creek Roads will be bid after the first of the year. The rights-of-way have been acquired and the water line has been moved. The Loakfoma Lake rehabilitation project has been lengthened due to the regulatory process of permitting. The recent rain and the wait for permits bring uncertainty to this summer's work in the lakebed. If we have to wait, we will re-water the lake in fall to provide foraging and loafing habitat for

migrating waterfowl and again de-water by spring.

Brett Wehrle has accepted the position of Project Leader for the Central Louisiana Complex, reporting for duty in late-November. He has been an asset during his three plus year's tenure, and will truly be missed. If you get a chance, wish him and his family the best. Good luck Brett, I know you will do good things for the Refuge System.

Our Saturdays on the Refuge programs have been very successful, and I want to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who have help host and teach in the events.

In October we will initiate a Volunteer Reward Program to encourage refuge volunteers to report their hours. After reporting a total of 75 hours to Andrea, andrea_dunstan@fws.gov, you earn a unique Noxubee NWR T-shirt, that can only be obtained by volunteering.



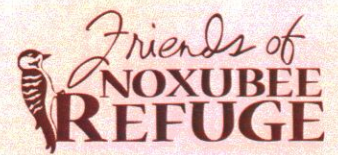
I hope to see you on "your refuge" soon!

Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 29, 2007
National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. Last year, 100,000 volunteers built trails, planted trees, and removed trash and invasive plants. Please mark your calendar and join us.

New Editor

Susan Brooks will be our new editor starting in 2008. Susan, her husband Chris and their two small children just moved to Starkville from Austin, TX. They both work for MSU. Susan read our newsletter online and saw that we were looking for an editor. We are very thankful that she accepted this responsibility. If you would like to contribute to the next edition, or just want to welcome her, please e-mail Susan at susan.e.brooks@gmail.com.



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

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Larry Box	Vice-President
Margaret Copeland	Secretary
Sherrie Wiygul	Treasurer
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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@bellsouth.net