

REFLECTIONS OF GREEN

by Tom Gregory

Green. Any time you are hiking around Noxubee Refuge and enjoying assorted wildlife and flowers, take note of this one often overlooked aspect. Like the blue sky or the stars at night, we often take for granted the abundance of green around us. This became evident to me one summer when I met some young people from out west who had never visited the Refuge, or, for that matter, any place east of the Mississippi River. They were all just looking around and had that look of wonder and awe, but I was at a lost to see what they were going on about until one said, "Everything is just so green." Well, that got me to see green in a new light and question just why are all these plants so green.

So anyway, for some grade school botany we all know, plant leaves are green because they contain a chemical called chlorophyll that undergoes a chemical reaction to sunlight called photosynthesis to produce energy for the plant, but the question still remains as to just why is chlorophyll green. Many other things are green as well because we as humans like green and make many things in that color, i.e. go-lights, garden hose and dollar bills, just to name a few, but chlorophyll is green for a reason. Leaves also contain other chemicals that are red and yellow as observed during the fall when the chlorophyll leaves the leaves and they get their pretty "autumn colors," so why is it not possible to have, say, red leaves in summer to turn blue in the fall. Try to visualize that picture in your mind. A little research dug up some real physical reasons why leaves are green.

Starting at the beginning of this whole cosmic order of things is the earth's atmosphere which is made up of various gases at a fairly uniform ratio and thickness. The huge ball of burning hydrogen we call the sun sends out light in all wavelengths which enters this atmosphere

and bends and bows and reflects and refracts all around these various gases until it becomes mostly blue in color (hence the blue sky). A different mixture of gases in the atmosphere and a different thickness would cause the sky to be a different color. This is the reason the sky is red looking at sunrise and sunset because the sunlight is filtering through more air. Now try to visualize in your mind a green sky along with the red plants leaves turning blue in the fall.

In order for the chemical reaction to be most effective, chlorophyll needs to absorb as much of this blue light as possible with some yellow and red but not much green, and therefore reflects and rejects green light which enters our eyes and bounces around what are called cone cells which tells us leaves are green. Now you know why plant grow-bulbs are a light blue. Photosynthesis not only produces energy for plants but also gases (mostly oxygen) which help keep the ratio of the various gases in the atmosphere just right to make blue light. Those kids at the Refuge taught me to appreciate the wonderful background that is only highlighted by the beautiful flowers and wildlife we observe. Now stop thinking about a green sky and blue leaves or people will think you are weird.





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Thanks for helping us out every time you shop at Kroger or Amazon!!

FONR Volunteer Recognized by MSU



On April 23, Madison Poole, volunteer at S.D.H. Noxubee Refuge received the Staff Volunteer of the year from the Maroon/Starkville Volunteers. Madison received the award for her dedication and time given to the Refuge.

Madison posted on Facebook: "I just want to say a sincere 'Thank you' to all of those at the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of the Refuge for allowing me to escape on my Saturdays to a place filled with beautiful wildlife, picturesque scenery, and new and interesting people. I love volunteering at the Refuge and will continue to do so as long as I am able. The award I received tonight is an honor; however, working with my Saturday family is even more so!"

We have to say the pleasure has all been ours!

Newly Acquired Land Dedicated in Memory of Sam Hamilton



Becky Hamilton, Sam's widow, putting final touches on dedication sign.

After Sam D. Hamilton, 1977 MSU graduate and Former Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) passed away in 2010, a donation account was set up with the nonprofit National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for the purchase of land for the Refuge. The new 22.5-acre tract of Refuge land is located on the east side adjacent to the Noxubee River and was purchased from the Sykes-Keys family. Additional funding remains available for the purchase of more land. Willing sellers adjacent to the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge are encouraged to contact the Refuge.

Noxubee Nature Series
September 7, 6:30 p.m.
Tisdale Auditorium
Noxubee Visitor Center

The quarterly meeting will be in the Tisdale Auditorium of the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. The meeting is open to the public, and there is no charge. Light refreshments and a social time will follow the presentation.

The Rookery Camera Is Live

Subscribe to our YouTube channel:
[Friends of Noxubee Refuge YouTube](#)

From the FONR President- Bob Fuller



As our hot and humid Mississippi summer comes to an end, I am looking forward to my favorite time of the year, autumn! The summer of 2017 has been a mild one with us escaping the usual triple-digit heat, and I have been thankful for the occasional summer rain

showers. But, oh how I long for the crispness of the coming autumn air, the changing colors of the leaves, and the fall wildflowers! We are weeks away from the ripening of the native muscadine grapes and the explosion of the goldenrods. I hope to have a glimpse of one my all-time favorites, the deep-red cardinal flower.



As the seasons change, let me encourage you to come to your national wildlife refuge and enjoy the trails and boardwalks. The Friends of Noxubee Refuge hopes to have the Visitor Center open on Sunday afternoons in the very near future. Please drop by and visit the exhibits, check out the works of art on display from the Artist-in-Residence program, and shop in the Nature Store, where all proceeds go to the Friends of Noxubee Refuge. If you are interested in volunteering in the Visitors Center or other opportunities at the Refuge, please contact us.

Enjoy the waning days of summer and let's get ready for the fall!

Save the date:

FoNR 5k run/walk – March 3, 2018

Details will be posted at

<http://friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org/upcoming-activities/>.



Another Successful Youth Fishing Derby

Photos by Loraine Walker and Kara Roberts



Nominations Committee Report

FoNR members will elect Board members and officers for FoNR during the September meeting.

The committee recommends the following:

OFFICERS

Kara Roberts - President

Wayne Wells - Vice President

Bob Fuller - Past President

Anna Marie Rasberry - Treasurer

Vera Taylor - Secretary

Dalton Anthony - Nature Store

BOARD MEMBERS

Terms expire December 2018

John Tomlinson

Jeanne Jones (for Kara Roberts).

Ron Johnson (for Wayne Wells)

Terms expire December 2019

John Dugan

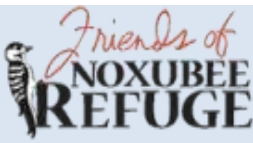
Loraine Walker

Joe Mulrooney (for Beverly Smith)

Additional nominations will be accepted during the election process.

Upcoming Canoe Days

August 19, September 16 and October 21



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

OFFICERS

President, Bob Fuller
Vice President, Joe Mulrooney
Secretary, Vera Taylor
Treasurer, Anna Marie Rasberry

REFUGE LIASIONS

Andrea Dunstan
Steve Reagan

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Tom Gregory
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2017 Noxubee Nature Series

*Contributions to this newsletter were made by B. Fuller,
D. Anthony, F. Box, J. Mulrooney, T. Gregory, L.
Walker, A. Dunstan, and G. Cotton*

**September 7
Dec 7**



Need a cap or a new tank top? Come on out and see our new selections at the Nature Store!

Photography contest



Deadline for entry is September 22, 2017. For details visit <http://friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org/photography-contest/>.

Bluff Lake Drawdown

Each summer Bluff and Loakfoma lakes are drawn down to low levels, allowing vegetation to grow around edges of the lakes. Wading birds, including wood storks, use the extensive mud flats to feed. When the lakes return to normal levels in the fall, the vegetation is then available for wintering waterfowl.

In recent years, however, the American water lotus has been increasing in spite of being treated with herbicide. This year, although we had planned on keeping the lakes a little higher to impede the lotus, we were given funding to rehabilitate the north levee of Bluff Lake, requiring the lake to be lowered again and sooner. Without taking some measures, the lakes will eventually be covered completely and difficult to navigate. With the current low lake levels, boating can be difficult, but fishing remains open.

We are currently working on possible solutions for the next year to help keep the lotus in check.

Submitted by Andrea Dunstan