

# Fall/Winter 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Friends of the Noxubee Wildlife Refuge

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Letter from the Friends of the Noxubee  
Wildlife Refuge President Kara Roberts

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Noxubee Wildlife Refuge in photos

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Refuge Day 2018 Photos  
Note from Refuge Manager Steve Reagan

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My Nine Nasty Weed List by Tom L. Gregory

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How can YOU help the Refuge?



Photo Credit: Diane C. Lochala



*Children  
creating nature  
crafts at the fall  
Refuge Day!*

Photo  
Credit:  
Kara  
Roberts

### Important information for December 6 meeting!

#### Bylaws revision proposal for the Friends of Noxubee Refuge

The Board of Directors has approved the two following proposed changes in the Bylaws. The general membership must vote on the changes at the upcoming December 6 meeting:

(1) **Membership Categories** - The Board proposes removing the list of specific membership categories from the Bylaws, so that the Board may adjust the categories as needed to better reflect current needs, perhaps adding student, senior, or veteran categories. Instead, the Bylaws would state that "... categories will be determined by the Board of Directors."

(2) **Change Annual Membership Time Period** – The Board proposes changing the annual Membership Year to a calendar year rather than the current October-September year.

*"Everywhere in woods  
and swamps I am already  
reminded of the fall."*

*Henry David Thoreau*

### *Visitor Center Hours:*

*Wednesday-Friday: 7:30 am - 4 pm*

*Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm*

*Most Sundays: 1 pm - 4 pm*

### *Contact Information:*

*Friends of Noxubee Refuge*

*13723 Bluff Lake Road*

*Brooksville, MS 39739*

[\*FriendsofNoxubeeRefuge@gmail.com\*](mailto:FriendsofNoxubeeRefuge@gmail.com)

*Visitor Center phone number:*

*(662) 323-5548*

*Website:*

[\*www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org\*](http://www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org)



## LETTER FROM THE FONR PRESIDENT

Fall has finally arrived! Have you visited the Refuge and enjoyed the fall foliage? Very nice! Get out there and enjoy it while it lasts. If you can't make it out there, check out the Friends Facebook page and enjoy the fall pictures.

We had a very successful Refuge Day last month in spite of the rainy weather. A BIG thank you to all our participants and volunteers. A huge shoutout goes to Joe Farris, Bob Fuller, and Vera Taylor for getting everything planned and organized - thanks for all your hard work!

Our next Nature Series will be held on December 6 at 6:30 in the Visitor Center. We will have a presentation on Africa thru Oktoc, ought to be an interesting program presented by 3 families.

Don't forget about the Friends car tag; specialty tag fee will be paid by the Friends for the first year for the first 300 applications. You can email the completed form to [friendsofnoxubee refuge@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnoxubee refuge@gmail.com) - the form can be found at [friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org](http://friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org)

See you at the Refuge!

Kara Roberts

President - Friends of the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge

## Calendar of Events:

**December 13: Friends of Noxubee  
Refuge Board Meeting,  
5:30 in the Visitor Center**



**Join us for our Christmas  
gathering and Nature  
Series presentation on  
Africa Thru Oktoc  
Dec. 6 at 5:30 in the  
Visitor Center.**





# Noxubee

# Nature

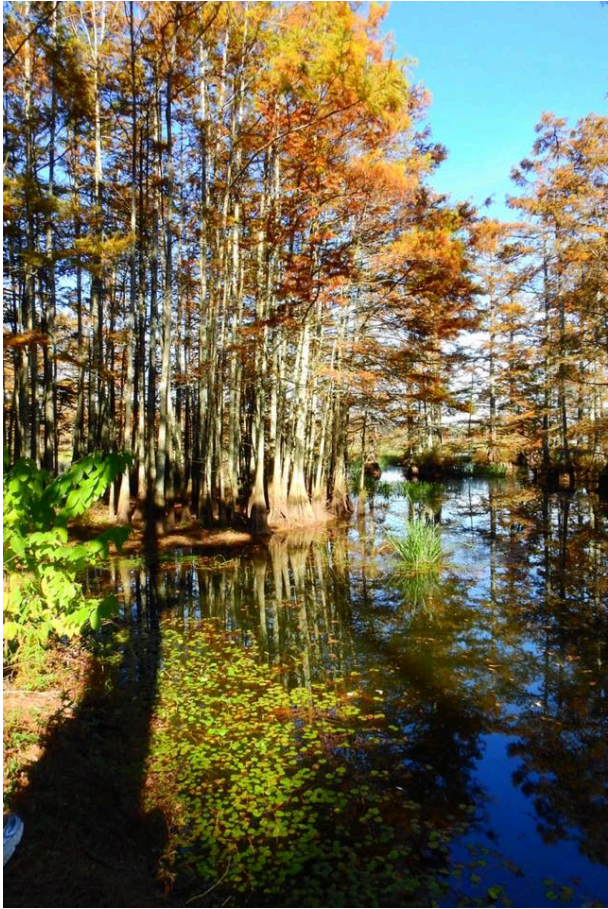


Photo Credit: Jana Manning



Photo Credit: Keith Martin

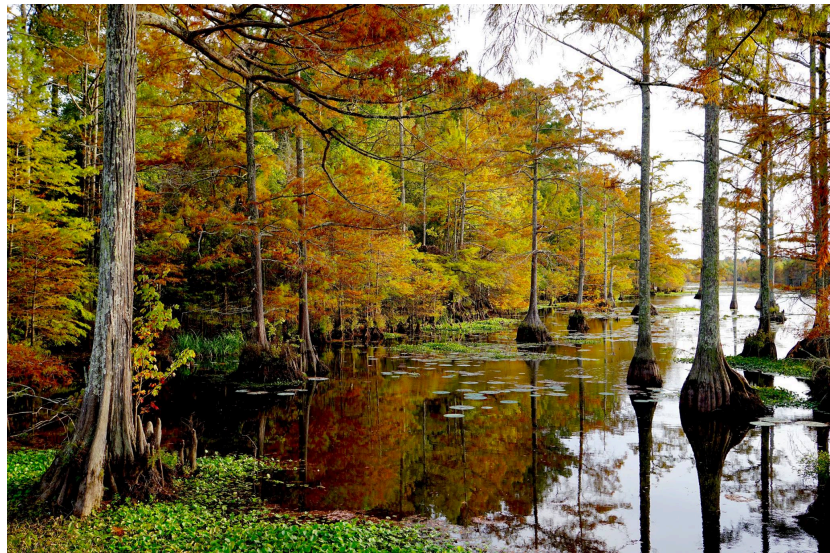


Photo Credit: Lana Grissom Taylor

*Go to our*

*Friends of the Noxubee National  
Wildlife Refuge*

*Facebook page to submit your  
photos, enjoy other's photos and  
interact with fellow Friend's  
Members and nature enthusiasts!*



Photo Credit: Vicki Maples



# Refuge Day 2018



**MSU Student Volunteers**

Photo Credit: Dalton Anthony



**Photo Credits: Loraine Walker**



## Note from Refuge Manager Steve Reagan

Have you ever felt so overwhelmed by everything you need to accomplish that it actually brings you to a halt where you actually accomplish nothing? I think at some point in all of our lives we have all experienced this and the hidden daily stress it places on your very being. A problem like this does not occur suddenly it sneaks up on you like a Bengal Tiger and it is not until we suddenly feel the weight that you fully realize you are in trouble. It takes careful and active daily, weekly, monthly and yearly management to control this from happening. It takes asking for help and allowing your Friends the opportunity to be there for you. Moreover, the amazing thing about the United States is, we have lands were anyone can go and just disconnect from this stress.

With the cooler days of fall heading our way, I look forward to sitting out in the morning's sunrise, hearing geese call in the distance as they begin to move, along with the sounds of wind passing over duck wings as they fly nearby above me. I look forward to hearing the splash of fish in the lake and being able to share and say "good morning" to maybe you as you too come out to the refuge. Stress? Did I start this article with stress? Just thinking about the opportunity of being outside on place as special as the refuge has already made that fade away. But, I also know all the work that needs to get accomplished and realized that the staff and I likely will not get it all done no matter how hard we try. When our Friends are here, with us, it makes all the difference and I hope you too will be out to the refuge soon. As a Friend of Noxubee Refuge, please know that without your support we would not be the special place you treasure so much. So please come, join us soon, and do not forget to let the refuge take your stress away.



# MY NASTY NINEWEED LIST

By Tom L. Gregory

The Mississippi Plant Industry has a list of nine plants they have approved as Noxious Weeds. They are the Benghal dayflower; the Brazilian Satintail; The Chinese Tallow Tree; Cogongrass; Giant Salvinia; Hydrilla; Itchgrass; Kudzu and Tropical Soda Apple. Personally, I only know about the problems with the Chinese Tallow Tree, Cogongrass, Hydrilla and Kudzu but the MPI explains how all nine are real bad guys that pose serious threats to our agriculture. Most of us never have to contend with these as we are hiking around the Sam D. Hamilton wildlife Refuge but there are other plants lurking about that we had better beware.

I have made my own list of what I call the Nasty Nine Weed List. Firstest and mostest is poison ivy and poison oak. It is everywhere so even the occasional hiker knows or should know how they look and what it can do. I carry a cleanser to wash up after contact and it really does help.

Next is privet hedge, left over from the original owners and grows in some places so thick that your only real option is to go around. However long it takes to go around will be much quicker and easier than going through. Been there and done that. Same can be said of Kudzu, brought here to prevent erosion and now seems to have taken over every place it grows. Kudzu goes dormant during winter while privet does not so when both are together they choke out everything else and form a solid mass that you can almost walk on.

Then of course there is the beggar lice or as kids call them stick tights. Know you have got them on your clothes before and are aware of the tedious process of removable. In severe cases something like a slightly bent snuff lid aids in scraping them off.

Briars of all shapes and sizes. They are everywhere and I despise each and every one of them, especially when they get blood. Ouch!

Goat weed is an innocent looking weed until you walk through a patch and then you will know how it got its name and the scent lingers for awhile. Pheww!

Stinging Nettle is like its name implies. Watch out if you are wearing shorts but they have got me through jeans before. I don't like them either.

Scrub Oak. This little tree grows in dry sandy places where nothing else will. It is tough, crooked and considered as trash by forestry people. An outlaw tree if there ever was one and with a nasty surprise if you shake one. There is a brown fuzz on the bottom of its leaves that will cause a lot of sneezing and coughing if inhaled. Best to get some fresh air, take a drink of water and wait until you can breathe again. Been there and done that also.

Number nine I reserved for last so to go into a little more detail. I am talking about Aralia Spinosa. A strange looking little tree that is known as the dreaded Devils Walking Stick. Some call it the Hercules Club. Many of the unfortunate places I have found myself is infested with this nasty. Many years ago, I found out the hard way that you don't grab this tree, even if you are tripping over a kudzu vine and about to fall into a blackberry briar patch. These things have long dead spikes all over that will go halfway through your hand and break off. Double Ouch! Better get it out quickly before infection sets in.

I once had a bad bad experience with Devils walking stick. I was clearing some out of my backyard when a green spike on the top leaves stuck in the top of my finger. It didn't break off and only left a small puncture wound, which only bled a little. Cleaned it up, put on an antibiotic cream and band-Aid and all was well, or so I thought. The next morning my finger was sore and red but not too bad. Oh well, sometimes this happens so I got ready and went to Sunday morning services. The redness quickly got worse and my entire hand began to swell. It got so bad I had to leave halfway through the sermon and head to the ER. My hand had swollen so much, I could not bend my fingers and it looked like a mini catcher's mitt. The swelling eventually began to go down after a couple shots and a lot of prayer. Apparently, the devils walking Stick has a poisonous compound that caused the problem.

Research on the internet verifies this but the exact compound is unknown. This is one nasty that looks bad and is bad.

These are my Nasty Nine plants to avoid around the refuge. There are some even worse nasties in other parts of the country but we won't go there.

Go hiking, enjoy the beauty in nature but watch out for the Nasty Nine.





## WANT TO SUPPORT THE REFUGE?

Refuge funding continues to decline; private philanthropic support helps fill in the gaps. Thank you for your support!

You can help by donating to our PayPal giving fund by using our website: [www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org](http://www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org)

or you can use the direct link:

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1896796>

*All donations are 100% tax deductible!*

Friends of Noxubee Refuge was founded in 2003 as an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, dedicated to conserving our natural resources through volunteer work and fund raising. Friends promote and support the preservation, history, and use of the Noxubee Refuge, as well as assist Refuge staff in carrying out their mandates.

*Looking for the perfect Christmas gift?*



**You can find it at the Noxubee Nature Store!**

