

We have an app! Download it for the latest updates and Nature Store specials!



Fall colors and July flowers; check out the **Scattertown Trail**, a 1.75-mile loop through hills and upland woods. (photo by Ron Johnson)

Nature Series Program Pollinators, Sept. 5, 6:30



Wild bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are critical to nature and to us. They are essential for two-thirds of our crops and 85% of all flowering plants. Studies have found that exposure to a wide variety of wild pollinators, not just European honey bees, gives strawberries and blueberries a bigger, better fruit yield, better taste, longer shelf life, and double the income for growers. It is similar for apples and other fruits. And many wildlife species from songbirds to grizzly bears depend on fruits or seeds that, in turn, depend on pollinators.

In our upcoming Nature Series program, **Shannon Westlake** will present *Pollinator Conservation: Aligning Knowledge with Action*. She will include information about her work with pollinators and ways to learn more or to help give pollinators near us a boost.

Shannon is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at MSU. She is a lifelong learner and advocate for the environment, hoping to create pollinator habitat and citizen connections to nature everywhere she goes. Her interest in pollinators began in her youth and continued

Calendar

Nature Series, *Pollinator Conservation*, Visitor Center.
Thursday, 6:30 PM, September 5

Work Day, 2nd Saturdays
9 AM, Sep 14 and Oct 12

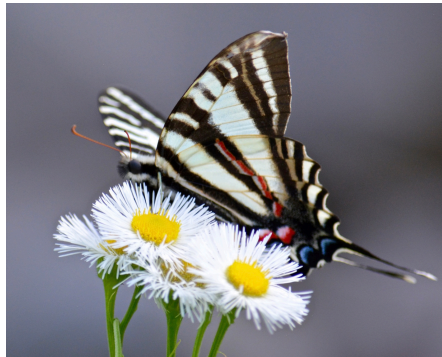
Canoe Day, 3rd Saturdays,
9 AM-3 PM, Sep 21 and Oct 19

Refuge Day, 10 AM to 2 PM,
Saturday, September 28

Pollinators, Nature Series, continued from page 1



through her academic career, leading to the creation of Project Pollinator in Auburn, New York during her Master's program. Her pollinator passion continues now with her doctoral research, studying the human dimensions of pollinator conservation. She is familiar with Noxubee Refuge, often coming to explore and take photos of pollinators (3 shown here), and to say hello to her friend, Taylor Hackemack, on the refuge staff.



Volunteer News

Taylor Hackemack, Volunteer Coordinator

The beginning of this year brought a surge of over 2,000 individual volunteer hours to the refuge—THANK YOU ALL! Projects have ranged from installing new viewing scopes on the Webster Memorial Overlook, Visitor Center maintenance, litter routes (in the rain!) and various carpentry projects scattered around Noxubee. From road maintenance to mowing to helping keep the Visitor Center open on Sundays, volunteers play a vital role in keeping Noxubee up and running and welcoming to visitors, and we thank each and every one of you.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me if you're interested in helping—odds are we can always use another hand or two!

FONR President

Kara Roberts

It is now mid-summer and it has been another hot one! I hope everyone has found a place to cool off at the Refuge; we have lots of nice shade trees!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page, website, and app for all the latest info about coming events! We have **Refuge Day 2019** in the works and set for **September 28, 10-2**. This event gives us a chance to introduce the Refuge to community members and students who might not have visited the Refuge. We could always use volunteers to help with setup/cleanup or activities during the event.

Calling all Volunteers!! We have a monthly work-day at the Refuge that occurs on the second Saturday of each month, 9 AM until the last volunteer leaves. This Refuge has a staff of only 9. That's 9 people to maintain a 48,000+ acre Refuge! Working one Saturday a month is a small way of helping out and showing our support for them!

Mark your calendar: the next **General Membership Meeting and Nature Series** is September 5 at 6:30 PM in the Visitor Center. We will hear **Shannon Westlake's** presentation, *Pollinator Conservation: Aligning Knowledge with Action*.

We are still accepting donations toward re-building the Bluff Lake Boardwalk that overlooks the Rookery. Donations can be made in person at the Nature Store, mailed in, or via paypal at friendsofnoxubeerefuge@gmail.com. Any way you make a donation, be sure to mark it as being for the boardwalk repair, and thanks for all the donations we've received thus far!

We are working to create committees to help the board accomplish various activities: if you are interested in helping out, drop us an email!

friendsofnoxubeerefuge@gmail.com

See you at the Refuge!

Friends of Noxubee Refuge, Membership, 2019

THANK YOU for your contributions and continued support!

Life Friends

- Paul and Nathalie Bearden •David Boles •John and Pam Bostick •Michael and Alison Buehler • Joe Bumgardner
•Rita Cochran •Margaret Copeland •Gwen Cotton •Barbara Crawford •Lawrence and Elsie Croft
- Andrea Dunstan •Elna Ezell •Bob Fuller and Stacy Parvin •Bob and Mary Fye •Wilson and Holley Gardner
•Charles L. Guyton •Jeffrey W. Harris •David and Betty Lynn Hunt •Jerry and Betty Jackson
- Mary Beck & Ron Johnson •Richard Kaminski •Wallace Killcreas •Buddy Laird •Scott Lipsey •Vicki Maples
•Sammy and Frances McDavid •Steve and Becky Mitchener •Rod Moore •Steven Moore •David Palmer
- Pine Grove Baptist Church •Ted Roman •Zack and Rosangela Sebba Rowland •Henry and Marion Sansing
•Lucy Senter •Fred and Julie Smith •Steve Taylor •Jimmie and Jacque Tisdale •John and Susan Tomlinson
•Jim and Suzie Turner •George and Kay Verrall •Sheldon Webster

Great Egret Friends

Bald Eagle Friends Wild Turkey Friends

- Ron Johnson & Mary Beck •C.A. Barge Timberlands, L.P.

Alligator Friends

- Joe and Barbara Farris •Tim and Sharon Gowan
•Lenore S. Griffin •Leonard and Reba Ingram
- Ronald and Nancy Losure •Stan and Dodie Maynard
•William Parker •Walt and Lee Ann Starr

- Buren and Luanne Blankenship •Joe and Jean Ferguson
•Junie L. Fuller •Susan Hamilton •Jim and Pam Hemphill
•Michael and Cherri Lightsey •Duane and Diana Lyon
•Jim and Julie Martin •Jack and Jimmie Faye McCarty
- Freddie and Anna Raspberry •Lynn and Myra Reinschmiedt
•Olive Celeste Scales •Lana Taylor
- Joe and Emilie Thompson •Eric and Cindy Villavaso
•Susan Watts •Glenn and Sherrill Wiygul •David Young

Family Friends

- Mais Ammari •Darlene and Ricky Bane •Mike and Heather Bouchillon •Larry and Florence Box •Devon Brenner
•Dolph and Greta Bryan •Joe and Carolyn Bryan •Charles and Carol Campbell •Mike and Marie Cayson
•Frank and Ann Chiles •Saeedeh Ghassemi •Toby and Sally Gray •Tom and Sue Gregory
- Susan and Fraser Kinsey •Mac and Diane Lochala •John and Leanne Long •Jimmy and Pam McCully.
•Len and Vivien Miller •Joe and Carol Mobley •Joe and Camille Mulrooney •Carlton and Hellen Polk
•Steve and Janet Ertel Reagan •Keith and Ruth Remy •Jack and Pamela Rhoades
- Charles and Florence Rivenburgh •John and Katie Robertson •Terence and Marion Schiefer
•David and Monica Short •Jim and Vera Taylor •Ryan and Montana Thomason •John and Jenny Vowell
•Karen Walker •Brock and Kelley Wamsley •Johnny and Bobbie Walton
•Wayne and Linda Wells •Hank and Gloria Williams

Individual Friends

- Dalton Anthony •Jennifer Barnette •Warren Box •Natalie Byran •Mark Edward Clark •Ed Clynh
•Matthew Comish •Gillian Furniss •Billy Ganann •Taylor Hackemack •Sherry Harrelson •Lian Harris
- Ernie Hutto •Phillip Kromer •Gaye Taylor Lindsay •Robert Lytch •Jana Manning •Dr. Johnny L. Mattox
•Debbie Richardson •Kara Roberts •Beverly Smith •Loraine Walker •Merrill Warkentin

Senior Friends

- Windham and Martha Abrams •John L. Dugan, Jr. •Gale Hagood •Mary Sue Hankins •Tommy Landers
•Gerald and Joyce McKibben •Margaret Cynthia Morgan •Joel Okula •Dianne Patterson •William Porter
•Judy Post •Beverly Reagan •Carolyn S. Stumpf •Nancy Walsh •Ethel Wilson

Student Friends

- Gibbs Bedenbaugh •Kristen Chisolm •Kevin Doran •Bailey Dykes •Adrienne Dykstra •Steven Ingram
•Autumn McClellan •Meredith McClellan •Travis Noto •Victoria Starnes

Honorary Friends

- Carolina Baruzzi •Dragana Connaughton •John and Charlotte Fuquay •Chelsea Gilliland •Evan Hirsche
•David Houghton •Charles Knight •Blake Layton •Karen Leggett •William McCully •Martha Nudel

Refuge Update

By Andrea Dunstan

Shout Out to Friends member and tireless volunteer **Joe Mulrooney** for braving the summer heat to help us keep up with the mowing.



You may have seen the recent **roadway right-of-way clearing** from the Oktoc entrance and along the Bluff

Lake levee. The purpose is two-fold: 1) to keep tree roots and growth from damaging the side of the levee and 2) to allow AT&T to install fiber-optic line to the Office.

Native wildflowers for pollinators will be planted in a few sections along Bluff Lake Road, and those areas will initially brown, along with the woody growth invading the Morgan Hill Prairie.

With the recent departure of Refuge Manager Steve Reagan, we have had several **interim managers** to assist us for a week to a month at a time. The manager position has been advertised and we hope to have more news soon.

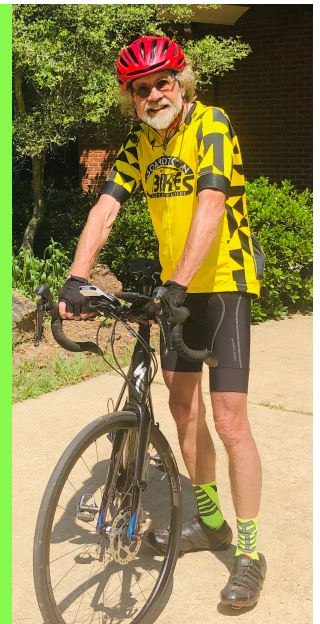
As part of the re-organization of the Department we have been **joined with North Mississippi Refuge Complex** effective with the start of the new year. Currently Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR is complexed with Choctaw NWR in Alabama. This new complex will have us as one of five, adding Tallahatchee, Dahomey, and Coldwater Refuges.

This year, we will not be lowering lake levels but will keep it at full pool. Vegetation has been removed from the spillway entrances in Bluff Lake – this has been holding up to 12 inches of water above the stop-logs and overflow spillway.

Aerial spraying of Bluff Lake will occur again in late August or early September to knock back the American Water lotus and other **aquatic invasives** including cut-grass, alligator weed, and American

Board Member News

Lynn Reinschmiedt, who joined our Board this year, had a bicycle accident on day 6 of the 7-day 2019 Oklahoma *Freewheel* annual biking event going across Oklahoma. He incurred a broken leg bone near the hip, requiring a partial hip replacement, four broken ribs, a partially separated AC shoulder joint, and a concussion – wow! He was patched up at a hospital in Tulsa, OK, and is now doing physical therapy and slowly recovering at home. He says the hip and ribs are coming along but the shoulder recovery is slow and will take several months. Lynn retired from MSU in 2010 after 33 years of service as an Agricultural Economics faculty member and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Upon retirement he continued to work part-time in varying interim administration roles until fully retiring in 2016. He is a very welcome addition to our Board, and we were saddened to hear of the accident. Please keep Lynn in your thoughts and well-wishes as he gradually improves toward his former bike-riding skills!



Frogbit. Loakfoma Lake will not be sprayed this year but there are test plots marked-out and being studied for future spraying.

Assistant Manager **Jake Gross** has taken another position with Natural Resource Conservation Service in St. James Minnesota, probably leaving by October. This will allow him to be with his wife who is currently employed nearby.

Refuge Day

Saturday, September 28, 10 AM to 2 PM

We're excited! Saturday, September 28 comes Refuge Day loaded with activities, exhibits, demonstrations, and some say, with things that go bump in the Refuge! Check out these opportunities:

- Canoes and Kayaks, •Hotdogs and Drinks, •Face Painting, •US Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement trailer - an inside look at wild law! (plan to be on very good behavior), •Crafts, •Reptiles, in person
- Beginner Friendly Yoga Class by Kate Fabel,
- MSU Dept. of Poultry Science (note photos of baby chicks, & smiles from last year),



- Mississippi Bat Working Group, •Mississippi Museum of Natural Sciences,
- MSU Cobb Institute of Archaeology, •MSU Dunn-Seiler Museum, •Wood

Magic Science with MSU Dept. of Sustainable Bioproducts, •Animals in Focus, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, •MSU Wildlife Society, •Mississippi Choctaws Wildlife and Parks, •Water Safety, Corps of Engineers, •Information & Membership (join the fun & excitement of Friends).

Nature Store

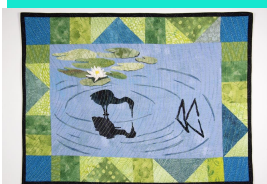
News from Dalton Anthony

NEW T-shirt designs have just arrived in the Nature Store, and this one is a story. On Facebook, Dalton saw a quilt (middle photo below) based on a Refuge photo (bottom photo), and thought that it

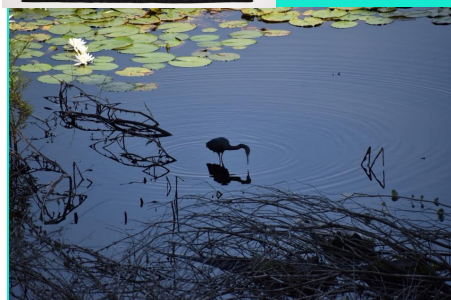


might also make a great T-shirt. So, with permission of the photographer, he worked with a graphic artist at **University Screenprinters** to produce a t-shirt.

The result is a t-shirt (above) inspired by the Refuge photo taken by Friends member, **Luanne Caldwell Blankenship**. It features a backlit egret foraging with ripples on the water, probably from a successful catch. We'll probably be successful too if we can catch one of these cool new t-shirts.



Luanne uses her photos to inspire quilts and now a t-shirt.



Come say hello to Dalton in the Nature Store, conveniently located in the Refuge Visitor Center!

Thank you Laurel!

A Navy destroyer at Noxubee Refuge, Bluff Lake? No way! Ah, but the *heart* of a Navy destroyer – meet **Laurel Kullerud**, who is assisting us as **Acting Project Leader** during August. Laurel's refuge home is the Sheldon Hart Mountain NWR Complex in Oregon, where **pronghorn** are the focus. Laurel has also worked at refuges in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. She grew up in Minnesota adventuring around her family's 80 acres, lying under the pines and oaks, or trying to follow her father silently through the woods. She is married and has two youngsters, a boy and a girl. So, the destroyer? Laurel spent 6 years in the U.S. Navy with her final tour on a destroyer (about 550 people, 50 being women) in the USS Nimitz strike group, with several tours in the Western Pacific and many weeks in the Arabian Gulf. So, welcome, Laurel, coming from a refuge with a pronghorn focus, and with a heart that has lived a Navy destroyer – thank you for helping Noxubee!

Thank you Friends!!

To all our Friends, THANK YOU for your continued participation and support! Every Friend makes a difference and 100% of your contributions go to support Friends programs for the Refuge. We especially appreciate those who were able to be *Cool-Critter Contributors* (Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, Alligator, and Great Egret Friends) this year. Please help us grow — tell friends, groups, and innocent bystanders about the good feelings and benefits from boosting the Refuge and nature!

Newsletter, New Look

developed by Ron Johnson, with inputs

We're trying some new things with our Newsletter to make it more useful and engaging for you. We hope you like it. Please help us get it right — let us know what you think.

friendsofnoxubeerefuge@gmail.com

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

From **The Summer Day** by Mary Oliver

Board Members

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Join Today! Become a Friend of Noxubee Refuge!

Your membership provides you with voting privileges and access to all our events, programs, and committees, plus 100 percent of your membership donation goes directly to boost Friends programs and the Refuge. You'll also receive our newsletter, in your choice of print or digital form.

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___ \$5 Student Friend

___ \$15 Senior (62 or over) Friend

___ \$15 Veteran Friend

___ \$20 Individual Friend

___ \$30 Family Friend

Be a Cool-Critter Contributor (Individual or family):

___ \$50 Great Egret Friend

___ \$100 Alligator Friend

___ \$250 Wild Turkey Friend

___ \$500 Wood Duck Friend

___ \$1,000 Bald Eagle Friend, Life Membership

___ \$2,500 Bluff Lake Benefactor

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Friends of Noxubee Refuge**. All funds are tax deductible. Mail to:

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13723 Bluff Lake Road

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