

Friends of Noxubee and Noxubee Refuge Host Junior Ranger Camp

So, when did you last climb a fire tower? Twenty-seven Junior Rangers did in June at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge while attending the Friends of Noxubee Junior Ranger Camp. Rangers learned to spot forest fires as one of the camp activities. The campers enjoyed a week of day long programs in the camp funded by Wilson Conservation Trust, MSU Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Department, Noxubee NWR,



Junior Rangers collecting insects

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Numerous FoNR members, many MSU faculty members, NNWR and Larry Box EE Center staff, USDA Wildlife Services staff, and others from the community pitched in to make the camp a huge success.

Each day included classroom sessions with hands on opportunities for campers interspersed with physical activities. The classroom sessions included storytelling, presentations on skulls, horns, and antlers, archaeology and ancient culture of the refuge, feathers, armadillos and leprosy, non-point source pollution, and weather forecasting.



Junior Rangers examining different bow types

Outdoor activities included tomahawk throwing, archery using long, recurve, and compound bows, bow fishing, fly fishing and canoeing. The Junior Rangers also hiked through the woods searching for mushrooms and lichens to identify; they collected water samples along the lake to learn what macro invertebrates tell about water quality. Other activities rangers enjoyed included fishing, identifying snakes and amphibians, a demonstration on making arrowheads, and trapping. A nighttime program featured an evening under the stars and a telescope tour of the heavens. Rangers also decorated t-shirts with sun-prints and learned to dissect fish.

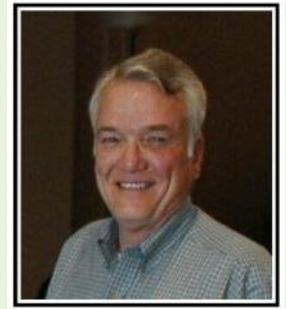
Free time featured fun and educational activities which included fly tying, birding, collecting and pinning insects, and learning to juggle. Cross cut sawing taught rangers how to work as a team. The campers learned about observing nature using loupes, by sketching nature objects, viewing nature art, and recording their observations of nature by journaling.

Campers and staff enjoyed the “bottomless fruit basket for anytime snacks” and the 5 minute mini- lessons before lunch each day. On the final night campers’ families attended a cookout of venison burgers and sausage served with potluck items prepared by their parents. Evening entertainment included tomahawk throwing, cross cut sawing, storytelling, and a slide show presentation of the week’s activities. All campers received framed certificates, shirts or caps, a Refuge Passport, and a field bag.

Camp leaders, Dr. John Guyton and Marion Sansing, are making plans to have the Junior Rangers and Stewards assist in future Friends of Noxubee Refuge programs.

From The President – Lawrence Croft

Summer vacations are over, the weather will soon be growing cooler, and activities at the Refuge are intensifying. One of the most important membership meetings of the past two years will be held on September 22. Please note the change from our usual 3rd Thursday in September schedule to avoid a conflict with the home MSU football game with LSU. At this meeting, new FoNR officers and board members will be elected to serve for the next two years, and a vote will be held on an amendment to our Bylaws that would change the renewal of membership procedure. Find details about these votes, the September program which will be on FoNR's Oral History Project, and other items of interest in this newsletter.



An interest in wildlife photography brings many of people to NNWR each year. Winners of the 2011 Friends Amateur Photography Contest will be announced during the National Wildlife Refuge Week event at 12:00 noon. October 1, 2011, at the Visitor Center. The rules, entry forms and winning photographs from the last two years are available on the Friends website. Start planning to enter the 2012 contest.

There are two excellent Saturdays at the Refuge programs on finding and identifying the birds at Noxubee Refuge in different habitats and at different times of the year. These programs will be presented by Jim and Dianne Patterson on November 5 and 19. Canoe Day will be held on September 3, with canoes, paddles, and life preservers provided free of charge. The canoes will be launched from the Doyle Arm area of Bluff Lake just west of the Visitor Center. The Annual Refuge Week Event Day with fun and learning experiences for visitors of all ages will be held on October 1 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. We hope you will join us for some of these activities which are open to the public free of charge.

This is the last newsletter of the year, and the September membership meeting is the last one of the year. Keep up with activities at the Refuge for the rest of this year by going to the FoNR website whose address is listed in this newsletter. I would like to thank FoNR officers and board members whose terms end on December 31, FoNR Volunteers, and Refuge staff members for helping make this a successful year.

Proposed Change in By-Laws

At the September 22, 2011 General Membership Meeting, a proposed change in FoNR By-Laws will be presented to the membership. For the change to be approved, a majority of those present and voting must approve the change. The current wording which the board is requesting be changed and the proposed change are as follows:

Current By-Laws

The Board of Directors shall have the power to prescribe annual membership dues. Dues are payable annually on the anniversary date of the original membership.

Proposed Change to By-Laws

The Board of Directors shall have the Power to prescribe annual membership dues. Renewal membership dues are payable in October.

General Membership Meeting September 22, 2011, 6:30 p.m. Tisdale Auditorium, Noxubee Visitor Center

Past history of the Noxubee Refuge is the topic for the September program. The main speaker will be Mr. T.A. Caldwell, who worked on the Refuge over 50 years ago. A few other former workers and local area residents have also been invited to attend, and they are expected to contribute some past experiences.

FoNR members and the public are invited to the program scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Tisdale Auditorium of the Noxubee Visitor Center. Refreshments and a social time will follow the meeting.

SATURDAYS AT THE REFUGE

The Friends assist with educational programs each first and third Saturday in the month. Check back often to see upcoming events. Programs are open to the general public and are free of charge unless noted otherwise. Call 662-323-5548 for more information or reservations.

October 1 – Family Fun Day – Visitor Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Our annual celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week and free to the public, this informative event is to increase our appreciation of wildlife habitat and its inhabitants. It will feature many exhibits, demonstrations, children's activities and all around good fun for the whole family! Come on out and join our celebration which will be held in and around the Visitor Center.

November 5 – Backyard Bird Workshop and Walk - Visitor Center 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Identify common backyard birds with the types of habitat they like and foods they eat. After their presentation, join Dianne and James Patterson to expand your knowledge of birds on the Refuge. If possible, bring binoculars, there is a limited supply available to use.

November 19 – Techniques for Improving Bird Watching Skills - Visitor Center 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

After an inside presentation on helpful techniques, go out on the Refuge to explore different habitat types and the birds that inhabit them. Bring binoculars or we will have some available to use. Program presented by Dianne and James Patterson.

December 3 – Nature Crafts for the Holidays - Visitor Center 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Get in the holiday spirit by making evergreen swags, ornaments and birdfeeders with natural materials. Materials will be available and you are encouraged to bring some materials you have collected to share with others. Help decorate a Christmas tree for wildlife, an alluring reminder that Christmas is truly a holiday for all.



Canoe Saturday, July 2, Joe Mulrooney and Larry Box supervise this popular Refuge activity.

Mushrooms, Mushrooms, Everywhere!

On Saturday August 20th several visitors prepared with baskets and bags attended the third Mushroom Talk and Foray at Noxubee NWR led by Mycologist Paul Scott. Several of the participants had been to his previous talks and were trying to learn more about mushrooms. His presentation defined what a mushroom was as well as identifying some of the most poisonous and most edible mushrooms found in this area of the Southeast. After his short presentation Paul led a walk on the Ray Watson Memorial Trail in search of mushrooms. Several species were found including a new one even for him! A few edible species were collected as well as many others for examples. Paul Scott's knowledge of the fungi was very captivating all along the trail; with each example collected he would point out identifying features from pores, to gills, and even smells. The group returned to the Visitor Center to identify what they found and many took notes for further reference. This program was a very informative and enjoyable



Paul Scott sharing his fungi knowledge

2011 Amateur Photo Contest

Winners of the 2011 Amateur Photography Contest will be announced at 12:00 noon in the Tisdale Auditorium at the National Wildlife Refuge Week Event at Noxubee Refuge on October 1, 2011. The day is a wonderful outing for the entire family with activities scheduled for all ages, children to seniors. Activities are free and will continue from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please join us for a fun-filled day and see if your photo taken at the Refuge is one of the winners this year!

October is Membership Renewal Month

Friends of Noxubee Refuge Board of Directors approved a By-laws change for membership dues to be paid in October. If approved by the general membership, October will be the month members renew their membership. This does not apply to Life and Family Life members who pay only once.

If you have paid or became a new member this calendar year (January 1st, 2011 – September 30, 2011) you will not need to pay again this October. Your membership renewal will not be due again until October, 2012.

Membership Renewal forms will be mailed to members in September. These may be paid by mail, **OR**, at the Friends booth that will be located at the National Wildlife Refuge Day event at Noxubee Refuge on October 1.

If you have any questions about your membership, you may email, jcb34@msstate.edu, or call, 323-2277, Janis Bryant, Membership Chair.



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Nomination of Officers Nomination Committee Report Proposed Officers for 2012 & 2013

President	Jim Taylor
Vice-president	Gale Hagood
Secretary	Vera Taylor
Treasurer	Anna Marie Raspberry
Board Members	Bob Fuller
	John Guyton
	Jan Bryant



is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization,
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JOIN FOUR TODAY!

Individual memberships start at only \$15.

2970 BLUFF LAKE ROAD
BROOKSVILLE, MS 39739

For a membership form
or information
about the Refuge, call
(662)323-5548.

2011 GENERAL MEETING - September 22

www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org

2970 Bluff Lake Road, Brooksville, MS 39739

Contributions to this newsletter were made by Frank Bonner, John Guyton, Florence Box,
Larry Box, Janis Bryant, Lawrence Croft, Andrea Dunstan, Jim Taylor and Jacque Tisdale.