

2011 Photo Contest First Place Winners

Prothonotary_Warbler
1st Place Adult Wildlife, Matt Swan



Winners of the annual photo contest were announced in October.

Autumn at the Refuge
1st Place Adult Scenery, Margaret McMullen



Winter_Retreat
1st Place Youth Scenery, Warren Smith



Mr_No-shoulders
1st Place Youth Wildlife, Warren Smith





From The President – James Taylor

General Membership Meeting

April 19, 6:30 p.m.

**Tisdale Auditorium, Noxubee
Visitor Center**

"Black Bears in Mississippi"

The speaker will be Brad Young, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks' Black Bear Program Leader. Black bear numbers are increasing in Mississippi. Documentation of newborn cubs combined with increased sightings leave little doubt that bears are slowly returning to our state's natural lands. With increasing bear numbers comes a need for increased understanding about black bears. Because these animals have been absent from Mississippi for so long, little is known of their habits or how we can coexist with these shy and secretive animals. The presentation will give a brief history of the role bears have played in Mississippi's history, their current status, efforts to conserve the bears that are currently living in our state, and what the future holds for the Mississippi black bear.

<http://www.mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/black-bear-program.aspx>

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.

Personnel Changes of Interest

Dr. Steve Reagan has been selected to be the new Project Leader for the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee and Choctaw National Wildlife Refuges in Mississippi and Alabama starting April 23, 2012. A 12-year veteran of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Steve has served in the Regional Office as Deputy Area Supervisor the last three years, helping lead more than 250 staff on 39 national wildlife refuges in Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky. Before his current assignment, Steve served as Deputy Project Leader for White River NWR in Arkansas, Acting Manager of the newly created Bayou Teche NWR in Louisiana, Supervisory Biologist for the

Southwest Louisiana NWR Complex, and Refuge Operations Specialist at Mandalay NWR in Louisiana, where he started his career with the Service in 2000. Prior to joining the Service, Steve worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U. S. Forest Service, and U.S. Park Service. His career stops have included Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee, North Carolina, Idaho, California, Wyoming, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Georgia. Steve earned a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Massachusetts, a Master of Science degree from The University of Tennessee, and a doctorate from Louisiana State University.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The Refuge's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held March 3. Pins recognizing volunteer hours were distributed and several awards were given. Bob Fye was the big recipient this year. One award was given by the Refuge for his contributions over the years. The Friends group recognized Bob and Mary Fye with a lifetime membership and a plaque recognizing their "outstanding dedication and generosity." The Friends also recognized Andrea Dunstan, Refuge Public Use Specialist, for her support of the FoNR mission. Lawrence Croft received the past president plaque.

New volunteer contracts were completed before the luncheon. If you are a volunteer and haven't updated your volunteer form, please contact Andrea at the Refuge office.

Ark Donated to Refuge



Bob Fye became a woodworker/carver when he retired as an entomologist with USDA. He has been donating his handmade wooden toys to the Nature Store since it opened. His latest endeavor was an ark filled with Mississippi "wildlife." This work of art was donated to the Refuge and is displayed at the Visitor Center near the Nature Store. If you haven't seen the three-story ark, make a point of visiting.



is an independent, nonprofit 501©3 organization,
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through volunteer work and fund raising.

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For a membership form or information
about the Refuge, call 662-323-5578 or visit
<http://www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org/>.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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2012 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DATES

April 19, June 21 and September 20

Contributions to this newsletter were made by
J. Taylor, F. Box, L. Box, J. Bryant,
L. Croft, A. Dunstan and J. Tisdale.



You have to look closely, but there is an eaglet just to the right of the adult. This picture was taken by Lawrence Croft on March 4.

General Meeting Dates and Programs

June 21, 2012 - Tim Brooks wildlife biologist
(formerly of Haas Outdoors)
<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/TennTom/>

September 20, 2012 - Lee Woodall
<http://prairiewildlife.com/>