



New Eagle Nest

L. Croft

New Eagle Nest?

Several Friends and Noxubee staff members have observed eagles bringing and placing twigs and sticks in a tree near a former nesting site. As previously reported in this newsletter, the eagles were raising three eaglets when a storm last April destroyed the nest, killing two of the young eagles. Friends erected a platform nearby hoping that the eagles would add to it. But as seen in the photo taken by Lawrence Croft, the eagles have selected a different tree. Whichever site they use, it is good to see nest building activity.



This photo, taken by Frank Peters, is on the cover of the current issue of Fish & Wildlife News, published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Frank was a proficient photographer of Noxubee scenes and wildlife and once served as FoNR webmaster. Frank was an Information Technology Specialist at MSU when he died in 2009 at age 44. What a wonderful posthumous honor to have this magnificent shot of Doyle Arm in a national publication. Many of Frank's photographs are online at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/fwp/>

From The President – James Taylor



I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. My first order of business as president of FoNR is to thank all of you for supporting the organization. I extend my appreciation to the officers and members of the Board of Directors who are rotating off and want to thank the new members for agreeing to serve. We invite FoNR members to attend any board meeting. All meetings are open to members to observe and make suggestions.

We look forward to a progressive year with the Friends of Noxubee Refuge. Friends will continue to support Refuge activities, such as the Youth Fishing Rodeo, Noxubee Native Plant Garden, Noxubee Nature Store, Refuge Day Celebration, Canoeing Days, Trail Walkers, Photography Contest and staffing the Visitor Center on weekends and holidays. We are making progress on the Morgan Hill Prairie restoration project and plan for additional projects that directly affect wildlife, such as the Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary and a new Bluebird Trail. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please let me or a board member know. Gale Hagood, our vice-president and general membership program chair, has put together a great slate of speakers for programs in the next year. The meeting dates and programs are listed in this newsletter and on our website.

Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge is a real treasure, and we are lucky to have it in our backyard. I look forward to working with all of you as your president during the next two years.

Friends of Noxubee Refuge recognizes and appreciates the work of the outgoing officers and board members. A varied service group such as FoNR cannot be effective without a core group of dedicated individuals giving freely of their time and talents. Thank you for your dedication and work on behalf of Noxubee Wildlife Refuge and FoNR. However, this does not mean you can't continue active involvement. Your continued service is needed!

Thanks and Keep up the Good Work

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as FoNR president and board member. As I leave the board I would like to thank each and everyone, including officers, board members, committee chairs, volunteers, etc., who have helped make it possible for FoNR to assist Noxubee Refuge personnel during the time all refuges are understaffed and underfunded. I also encourage continuing board members as well as newly elected board members to work with your new officers, and the refuge manager and his staff to make NNWR the best refuge that it can be for the critters for which it was established and for members of the general public who enjoy visiting it and support it with their taxes. I have been visiting Noxubee Refuge since about the time it was established and plan to continue for a while longer; so I expect to see you at our refuge in the future.

Lawrence Croft



Christmas
Crafts in
December

Picture by: A. Dunstan

For more information about Saturdays at the Refuge scheduling, call the Refuge at 662-323-5548 or visit the Friends of Noxubee Refuge webpage at <http://www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org/>.

Personnel Changes of Interest

Larry Williams is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's new field supervisor for its South Florida Ecological Services office in Vero Beach, Florida. For the last five years, Williams served as the Service's budget chief for the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Washington Office. Many will remember Williams as Noxubee's Deputy Refuge Manager who was instrumental in forming FoNR. In 2003 Refuge Manager Jim Tisdale asked Williams and Dr. Lawrence Croft to attend the National Friends Conference with the intention of starting a volunteer group for Noxubee Refuge. Their participation and enthusiasm led to the formation of Friends of Noxubee Refuge. It's good to have Williams back in Region 4.



David Richardson, Noxubee's wildlife biologist since 1985, has begun work in a new position. His official title is Area Biologist, but he is the terrestrial ecologist for the Inventory and Monitoring Program in Region 4. Presently he is stationed in Grenada, Mississippi, but he will be supporting biological efforts in 10 Southeastern states. Richardson has provided much support to and many programs for FoNR. He is recognized around the Region as a red-cockaded woodpecker specialist. He will be missed greatly by the Friends group but will remain in the area. We wish him well and look forward to seeing him around town.

Henry Sansing, Noxubee Refuge's Project Leader since 2004, has agreed to serve as the new Regional Forester for the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Southeast Region effective January 15. He will be housed at MSU for the present time, but may relocate another central location in the near future. Sansing is uniquely qualified for this position as he is one of the Service's few remaining forestry-trained refuge managers who understands the challenges of actively managing forests for wildlife within the context of overall refuge management for diverse habitats and public use opportunities. Further details were unavailable at press time.



Kappa Alpha Volunteers

Volunteers in Action

In October, MSU's Kappa Alpha Fraternity conducted their annual workday at Noxubee Wildlife Refuge. Pledges and members assisted Friends of Noxubee Refuge in weeding, mulching, and clearing debris from Noxubee Native Garden. The group also picked up trash from the Friends of Noxubee section along Highway 25.

On October 3, in celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week, about 500 people enjoyed Noxubee's Family Fun Day festivities. Included was the buggy rides provided by Johnny Heard.



General Membership Meeting

JANUARY 19, 6:30 p.m.

Tisdale Auditorium, Noxubee Visitor Center

"Strategic Wildlife Habitat Improvements"

Blake Hamilton, a Mississippi State University graduate, will be speaking on **Strategic Wildlife Habitat Improvements**. His degree in Forestry and Wildlife led Hamilton to his position at Mossy Oak's Nativ Nurseries as registered forester, wildlife biologist, and nursery manager. He is a frequent writer in *Gamekeepers Magazine*. His experience includes invasive species control, wetland delineation, and strategic forestry mowing for habitat designs. He has developed and implemented multiple habitat management plans for clients throughout the southeast. Hamilton's passion for native plant selection, propagation, and management has opened a niche in developing habitat restoration plans on private lands through the use of native trees and plants.

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.

Membership News

If you did not pay your membership dues in 2011, this could be your last newsletter. If unsure, please call Membership Chair Janis Bryant at 323-2277 or email jcb34@msstate.edu.

Several members are undergoing address changes. Please check your mailing label and let Janis know if there is a need for correction. Don't miss participating in the projects we have planned this year due to a mis-sent newsletter!

General Meeting Dates and Programs

January 19, 2012 - Blake Hamilton
<http://www.nativnurseries.com/>

April 19, 2012 - Brad Young bear specialist
<http://www.mdwfp.com/level2/Wildlife/Game/Bear/default.asp>

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/>



is an independent, nonprofit 501©3 organization, dedicated to conserving our natural resources 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

January 19, 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.