

Friends Learn About Beaver Control

Nineteen Friends of Noxubee members, ranging in age from children to adults, joined Noxubee Refuge staff Steve Reagan, Steve Lewis, and Sam Sosa on August 17 to learn about beaver control.



Waterway is blocked by beaver



Steve Lewis and Sam Sosa set the charge.

The group learned the positives and negatives of beavers impounding streams and low bottomland areas. Forty-four areas of Noxubee are currently impounded by beavers. The Refuge staff evaluates each beaver impoundment to determine whether or not damage caused by the beavers is severe enough to warrant action. If action is necessary, the staff uses various techniques including removal of the dam and/or trapping of the beavers. Trapping techniques were demonstrated by Steve Lewis.



Water way is opened.

However, the highlight of the morning was observing the strategic placement of explosives by Lewis and Sosa to remove a dam, followed by watching the detonation from a safe distance.

Other events are being planned for members to enjoy and learn more about behind the scenes activities at Noxubee.

For up-to-date information, visit these websites.

<http://www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/FriendsofNoxubeeRefuge>

Photos taken by Lawrence Croft

From The FONR President– James Taylor



This is my final column as President of Friends of Noxubee Refuge. I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to help out while I have been your President. There have been numerous people doing various tasks that have contributed to the Sam D. Hamilton

Noxubee National Refuge and to the community surrounding the Refuge. I especially thank all of the board members who have served the past two years, other Friends members that you can always count on to help out, and to Steve Reagan and Andrea Dunstan with the Refuge. All of you have been great to work with. I hope that everyone will continue to support the Friends of Noxubee Refuge in the future because it is important. We especially need to help educate young people about Nature and the importance of places like the Sam. D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. If you want to help with volunteer activities, please let us know or let the Refuge know that you are interested in helping. Waiting for someone to call to ask you to help probably is not going to happen. If you see an event coming up that you might be interested in helping with just show up and say that you are here to help, and we will be glad to include you. It will be a good way to find out about other things we are doing, and maybe you can find your niche in the organization. Again, thanks for letting me be your President, and I look forward to your continued support.



Photo by Lawrence Croft

This new Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge sign has been erected in the picnic area near the spillway where the renaming of the Refuge ceremony was held.

Refuge Manager Steve Reagan's Reflections



Wow! I cannot believe the first day of autumn is almost here. The cooler days and nights we have been experiencing this summer feel great. Although we are still officially in summer, looking out on the Refuge I am already seeing the early signs of fall. As we reach the end of

Summer, I continue to see more and more Wood Storks; American White Pelicans have recently arrived; and egrets and herons have finished raising their young. But, as a true sign of the change in seasons, I am also seeing the first of our migratory waterfowl. Blue-winged Teal, one of the first ducks to migrate each year, are now arriving on the Refuge. From now until winter, more and more birds of all sorts of shapes and sizes will soon be arriving as part of their migration south. The transition period between summer and winter can be magical in many ways and there is only one way to experience it, and that is to get outside. The Refuge itself is also going through changes including adjusting to decreases in staff size and resources that are used to support Refuge programs. Now more than ever, it is the support of the Friends, volunteers and student interns that keeps projects moving forward and enthusiasm high. In the past month volunteers and student interns provided 321 hours of highly valued work toward Refuge projects.

Refuge Day Date Announced

The 2013 Refuge Day (Family Fun Day) is scheduled October 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Varied activities for the entire family will be held in and around the Refuge Visitor Center.

Winners of the 2013 Annual Amateur Nature Photography Contest will be announced and prizes awarded during this event. The photography presentation will be 11 to 12 o'clock in the Visitor Center. Rules and entry forms for the photo contest are found online at <http://www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org/2013-entry-form.html>.

General Membership Meeting
September 19, 6:30 p.m.

Tisdale Auditorium
Noxubee Visitor Center

September 19, Program Announced

September 19 is the next quarterly Friends of Noxubee Refuge general meeting. Dr. Brian Davis will give a program on wood duck management and wood duck research. Wood ducks are the only ducks to remain year around on Noxubee Refuge, and some say it is generally the most beautiful duck. Davis holds wildlife degrees from Mississippi State University and University of Missouri-Columbia. He currently works in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, MSU.

In addition to hearing an informative program, members will elect new officers and board members. Please plan to attend Thursday, September 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Tisdale Auditorium of the Visitor Center.

The nomination committee has submitted a slate of officers but the floor will be open for additional nominations. FoNR officers and new board members submitted for 2014-2016 include the following:

President - Larry Box
Vice President - John Guyton
Secretary - Vera Taylor
Treasurer - Anna Marie Rasberry
Board – Crayton Coleman and Margaret McMullen

The quarterly meeting will be held September 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Tisdale Auditorium of the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. The meeting is open to the public, and there is no charge. Light refreshments and a social time will follow the presentation.

October is Membership Renewal Month

October is membership renewal month for 2014. In October, current members will receive a notice from Friends' Membership Chair, Anna Marie Rasberry, reminding you of your membership expiration date with renewal instructions. In the meantime, if you have questions, you may email her at anna_rasberry@yahoo.com (underscore between first and last name) or call 323-4098.

Alligator Larger than Al Found Dead in Bluff Lake



BACKSTORY: *On May 18, 1969, three adult male and 3 adult female alligators were flown to Columbus, MS, for release at Bluff Lake on the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.*

It is likely that many of the alligators seen by today's visitors to Noxubee Refuge are decedents from the original six alligators.

Refuge officials are sure this 14' 2" adult male alligator found dead near the water control structures of Bluff Lake is the largest alligator ever documented on the Refuge.

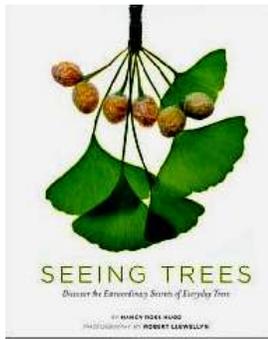
Refuge Manager Steve Reagan said, "I am very impressed by the general size of many alligators at the Noxubee, and seeing an animal that measures more than 14 feet is a one-in-a-life time experience. I could have, however, missed out on the smell." Initial inspections of the carcass indicated the animal likely died of natural causes.

This big reptile is even larger than "Big Al," previously thought to be the largest alligator found at the Refuge. Al frequently lay along the upper end of Bluff Lake levee and was a favorite of visitors. Al's skull is on display at the Visitor Center.

Guided Trail Walks

This fall another series of guided trail walks is planned for Noxubee. The walks are casual with a leader who is familiar with the trail. Additional information as to the meeting place will be given prior to each walk. Most hikes are over uneven ground and involve occasional natural barriers, so wear suitable shoes and clothing. Bug spray and water is also suggested. The trails and dates are as follows:

Scattertown Trail - September 14 - - Led by Tom Gregory – Meet at the Scattertown Trailhead 9:00 a.m.
Watson Trail - October 26
Beaver Dam Trail - November 16
Prisock Field - December 14



Seeing Trees

By Nancy Ross Hugo
with photographs by
Robert Llewellyn

If you are interested in a book that celebrates trees in text and extraordinary photos, this is the book for you. And if you join me in preferring the native trees, don't be thrown off by the cover. The ginkgo is the only non-native found in the book and what a beautiful tree it is. The book covers a variety of southeastern trees but takes a more complete look at ten species, eight deciduous and two coniferous. The photos are simply gorgeous with a

translucent quality usually seen only in paintings on gesso or in works done on rice paper. The book was printed in China under the name of a London publisher. I suspect one could not get it printed at a decent price in this country, as many color plates as there are. It sells for \$29.95 on Amazon but I bought it as part of an order of three tree books and ended up paying only \$19 plus change. Our late dendrologist friend, Dr. Ray Watson, would have loved it, and if that is not recommendation enough for you, I don't know what to say.

Sherrie Wiygul

P.S.—I am not a “bird person” and if there is one out there who wants to write a bird book review, it would be much appreciated.



is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization,
dedicated to conserving our natural resources
through volunteer work and fund raising.

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about the Refuge, call 662-323-5548, visit
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsOfNoxubeeRefuge>, or <http://www.friends-of-noxubee-refuge.org>.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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2013 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DATES

September 19

*Contributions to this newsletter were made by
J. Taylor, S. Reagan, A. Dunstan, J. Tisdale,
S. Wiygul, L. Croft, F. Box, G. Cotton*

Calendar of Events

September 19 General Membership Meeting, Visitor Center
6:30 p.m.

September 21 Canoe Day on Bluff Lake, Doyle Arm 9 a.m. -
3 p.m.

September 23 - November 1 Artist in Residence Kathryn
Hunter Exhibit at Cullis Wade Depot Gallery, MSU

October 12 Refuge Day, Visitor Center and Surrounding
Area, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

October 19 Canoe Day on Bluff Lake, Doyle Arm 9 a.m. -
3 p.m.

Artist in Residence at Noxubee

Kathryn Hunter of Blackbird Letterpress in Baton Rouge is the first artist-in-residence in a new program partnership between the Mississippi State University Art Department and Noxubee Refuge. Hunter will create art and present programs as she is inspired by the beauty of Noxubee.

Watch for more information on the Friends website and Facebook page.