



Tennessee Refuge Reflections

**Tennessee National
Wildlife Refuge**
3006 Dinkins Lane
Paris, TN 38242

(731) 642-2091
<http://TennesseeRefuge.fws.gov>

Refuge Manager
John Taylor

Office Hours
M-F 7:00 to 3:30

Benefactors

Johnny Allen

Sandra Anderson

Randy Collins

Paris! Magazine

Corporate Sponsors

Mrs. Jeanette Rudy

Paris Plumbing Supply,
Inc.

The Crittendon Press, Inc.

Paul A. Latour

Presidents Page

Hello Friends.

There is a lot to talk about in our future. We have a host of programs and projects to take us through the end of the year. We think that there will be a little something for everyone in the next couple of months and hope that you can find the time in your busy schedule to volunteer to help or join us for a fun time.

The Refuge Discovery Series will host our Girl Friends Hike on Saturday the 20th keeping the guys at home watching football and letting the ladies have the woods to themselves. We will also have a class on Duck and goose calling by John Paul Moody leading into this winters hunting season. The final class for the year will be a slide show on the refuge system as a whole and the role that the TN Refuge plays.

The Friends also have underway a multifaceted approach to promoting the refuge as a destination for artists and photographers. As with any program we undertake one of our primary goals is to raise local awareness of the refuge and let people know that it is theirs to use. A look back at history shows that our forefathers learned of this nation's beauty through the works of artists like Audubon and later through the photographs and stories of John Muir and Ansel Adams. With that in mind the Friends will host a "Wild About Life" art show expanding the natural fit between our environment and the arts.

Leading up to the "Wild About Life" art show we have partnered with local artists and businesses in a "Feed Your Friends" program. By buying one of these feeders you can feed a bird, feed an artist and feed the Friends Group with your purchase. The friends built bird feeders and provided them to local artists in advance of the show. The local artists personalized the feeders with designs covering the range from patriotic to bucolic. The third leg of this program is the gracious participation of local businesses who are displaying the feeders up until the Art Show. You can visit merchants around the downtown area to view and place bids on these feeders. A complete listing of their locations is available at each site. Final bids for the feeders will be taken on Saturday evening the 27th at the Art Show itself and the proceeds from the sale will be split between the Friends and the Artists. These feeders are works of art and few of them will ever see the outdoors. Please drop by a local merchant and place a bid on one today. Once you've done that mark your calendars for Saturday the 27th and make plans to spend the evening at Lee School viewing the works of our local artists and photographers. Tell your friends about the show and bring them along.

Dan Dziekonski
Friends President



Manager's Corner

Hello Friends,

This glorious fall day finds me looking out the window of my office at the crimson and orange sumac leaves in the field next to the building. The red color of the leaves matches the feathers of a faithful cardinal that I have noted parading across the field and up into the trees. I am hopeful that you have been able to spend some time watching birds as well, because they truly are Mother Nature's "eye candy."

For ladies and girls interested in glimpses of this "eye candy" please consider a very special event that will be held this weekend. Join us at 9am-12Noon on Saturday, October 20, for the second annual Girlfriend's Day event at the Britton Ford hiking trail. This activity is for women only and is sponsored by our Friends group. Brittney Viers, an exceptional graduate student at Murray State University, will be on hand to guide the leisurely walk around the 2.0-mile trail. I walked the trail with the girlfriends last year when we held our first Girlfriend's Day walk. The fresh air and sunshine were a joy and I enjoyed visiting with each of the ladies. For those interested in lunch following the hike, an optional box lunch is available, at a cost of \$5 each. Reservations are required for the lunch, but not for the event. You are also welcome to bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy with the group after the walk. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

To reserve a box lunch, call the refuge office at 731-642-2091 and ask for Joan Stevens. C'mon! Grab a good set of walking shoes, a pair of binoculars if you have them, and meet us at the trailhead at 9am.

Here is an interesting tidbit about Girlfriend's Day that I bet you didn't hear about. When our Friends group suggested the event, we had a lively discussion on what it would be called. Multiple names were suggested, including my personal favorite: "[Women go Wild at Tennessee Refuge.](#)" Good sense took over, however, and we settled on "Girlfriend's Day." Until we find a better name, we'll go ahead and use "Girlfriend's Day." However, knowing that many of you are much more creative, if you would like to suggest a different name for this annual event, please do so. E-mail your recommendations to Friends Group President, Dan Dziekonski at dziekons@earthlink.net or to Joan Stevens, Refuge Ranger, at Joan_Stevens@fws.gov.

Quite a few hunters have been visiting us recently, and calling to purchase their annual hunt permits. Each year we sell about 1,900 permits, give or take a few hundred. The permits are sold for \$12.50 and are good for open hunting events on both Tennessee and Cross Creeks Refuges. This is the first year that TWRA has helped us by selling our refuge hunt permits along with their hunt permits. Our new partnership effort with them has been very successful. Now hunters can get their annual general hunt permit at bait shops, convenience stores, and anywhere TWRA sells licenses. This arrangement has improved opportunities for hunters to obtain their permits when the refuge office is closed.

Finally, I have some exciting news that I'd like to share with you. We are proud to report that two of our employees have each welcomed home their first baby, one in September and another in October. Assistant Refuge Manager Andy Hofmann at the Duck River Unit, and his wife Tanya welcomed Emily Grace on September 10, and Lee Dillivan, one of our Fort Campbell Law Enforcement Officers, and his wife, welcomed Amelia Grace on October 12. Join with us as we congratulate them and wish them good luck in their new roles as first-time parents. I expect they will have a lot to say "grace" over, in the next 20-or so years!

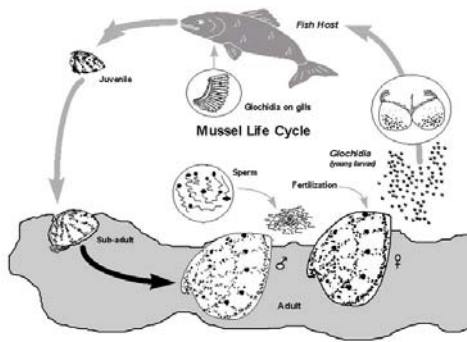
Raye Nilius,
Deputy Refuge Manager

Critter Corner

Mussels



Freshwater mussel



Mussel Life Cycle



Mussel's Lure

Quick Facts

Size: Up to 6 inches

Weight: 1 ounce

No. Eggs: A few thousand to millions

Lifespan: 10-100 years

Typical diet: filter feeders

We have talked in the past about the refuge itself and the things that you see as you walk the ground. For this critter we will step into the refuge waters and go below the surface to explore mussels. We intend to follow up this article with a Discovery Series program next year that will have us wading in Kentucky Lake to get a first hand look at these critters.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service notes that "No other country in the world equals the United States in freshwater mussel variety. While all of Europe supports only 12 species, nearly 300 kinds live here, mostly within the vast watershed of the Mississippi River." An article in the Tennessean noted that the Duck River has more species of aquatic life than the entire continent of Europe. This is our own Duck River that empties into the Tennessee right at the Duck River bottoms.

Mussels are freshwater mollusks. Clams and scallops are also in the mollusk family. Mollusks are invertebrates meaning they lack a spinal column. The mussel is a simple animal enclosed by two shell halves connected by a ligament. This shell takes the place of a spine and surrounds them to provide support and protection. This shell is made of calcium they extract from the water, the same mineral that forms our bones.

Mussels have a very unique life cycle. Unlike oysters and clams, mussels need a host fish to complete their life cycle. Some require a specific species of host to complete their life cycle while others use a variety of fish species. Male mussels release sperm into the water. The sperm are drawn into the female as she filters water for food. The fertilized eggs reside in pouches in the female and develop into larvae termed glochidia--tiny creatures that are parasitic and must find a suitable fish host to complete their life cycle. Glochidia can be triangular, spherical, or hatch-shaped and are from 0.08 to 0.35 millimeters in diameter. A single female can carry from a few thousand to several million glochidia. To insure that fish will host her young some mussels wave a lure that looks like a minnow to attract fish looking for food. When a fish bites the lure, the female releases the glochidia from her gills and they attach to the gills or fins of the fish. Depending on the species, glochidia remain attached to the host fish for about 3 days to 10 months (determined by water temperature) while transforming into juvenile mussels and do not appear to harm the fish.

Native mussels face greater problems today than in years past. Some problems aren't new. Water quality has improved in some areas but pollution, especially non-point source pollution, is the greatest threat to mussels. Sedimentation and silt continue to take a serious toll and habitat losses through channelization, clearing of riparian vegetation, dredging, and dam construction still persist. Mussels are impacted by loss of fish hosts from fish kills or dams that prevent fish migration. Poachers seriously impact mussels by violating harvest regulations. However, in some parts of the country, it's a non-native mussel causing the most concern. Since first spotted in the Great Lakes in 1988, zebra mussels have nearly eliminated native mussels in some locations.

Because they are unable to flee from threat mussels may be the most troubled natural resources in this country. It's estimated that 70% of our freshwater mussels are extinct, endangered, or in need of special protection.

Thanks to our New Members!!

Clay Kaland

Richard R. Dunlap

Our Mission

Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. is an independent, non-profit corporation dedicated to supporting the primary purposes for which the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge was established and promoting the preservation of the natural and historical resources of the Refuge, foster its use and enjoyment by the public consistent with the protection and preservation of its environment, and engage in such educational, scientific and civic activities as will assist the management of the Refuge in carrying out its mandates.

Membership Annual Dues

\$15 Individual
\$25 Family
\$100 Corporate
\$500 Benefactor

Mail to:

Friends of Tennessee
NWR
3006 Dinkins Lane
Paris, TN 38242

Members Cookout

The Friends recently hosted our annual Members Cookout. The cookout gives us an opportunity to say “Thanks” to our members and give a brief summary of the past year’s activities. Friends get to meet their Board members and ask questions about the refuge and Friends programs as well as offer suggestions for future activities. Thank you again for all of your support.



For additional photos on these events you can go to:
<http://www.tnwrfriends.org/>

Feed Your Friends

Visit a local business and check out what a fine job our homegrown artists have done personalizing these bird feeders. Place a bid on one of them and your purchase will be feeding a bird, feeding the artist and feeding the growth of your friends group. These feeders are located around town at various merchants with a list of other locations provided at each site. Final bids for the feeders will be taken at a silent auction during the “Wild About Life” art show that will be held at Lee School Academy For the Arts.



Wild About Life Art Show

The Friends are hosting the Wild About Life Art Show at the Lee School Academy For the Arts. The viewing and a reception will be held on Saturday October 27th from 6:00 to 8:00PM. If you have a painting or photo of regional wildlife or nature scenes you can enter it at Lee School on either Tuesday the 23rd from 9-12 Noon or Wednesday the 24th from 4-7:00 PM. There will be a closed reception for the artists on Friday the 26th at 6:00PM. On Saturday the 27th come to the public viewing and reception and place your final bids on all of the feeders as well. That evening will give you a great opportunity to stroll around and meet with some of this area’s finest artists. Make a note to come on out and spend a relaxing evening with some of the finest artists around the region.

For more info go to <http://www.tnwrfriends.org/>

Sandra Anderson – a long time friend of the Refuge

We mourn the passing of Sandra Anderson. Sandra was an early arrival to the Friends Group and she soon became a Benefactor. She lived next to the refuge for years with her husband Joe. She said that he loved the refuge and would plant wheat and food crops on their property to support wildlife. She wished to be a part of the Friends movement to continue his work. Sandra will be sorely missed.

**Open to the
public, bring a
friend!**

**Annual Girl Friends Day Hike
Saturday, October 20th
Britton Ford Hiking Trailhead
9:00 – 12:00 pm**

**New members
may sign up at
the event!**

Brittney Viers, graduate student at Murray State University will lead this unique morning tailored just for women. She will lead participants on an informative, non-structured hike open that is open to questions on a variety of subjects. It will end with a box lunch at the trail.

(open to all women - \$5 for box lunch)

Please contact the Refuge Office at 731-642-2091 for lunch reservations.

The National Wildlife Refuge System

When we go to the refuge we think of the ducks and geese that we see there as our own. With a few exceptions, like the wood duck, most of the birds that we see are migrants that travel great distances. Some are born in the prairie pot hole region of the Dakotas or as far north as the Arctic Circle. They head south and become our winter guests. Others pass through in the spring and later in the fall, wintering as far south as Mexico or Central America before returning to the north for the summer. To accommodate these world travelers the Refuge System was developed.

The refuge system is a network of refuges working together to provide critical habitat for numerous species. In the case of migrant waterfowl a series of relatively small refuges along a flyway work together to provide a complete corridor from nesting habitat to wintering grounds. This is easily seen on a map of the Mississippi flyway refuges.

Other refuges like the Florida Panther NWR were created to protect a single species. The endangered Florida Panther ranges over large areas and needs a large refuge complex for its continued survival. While its primary role is the protection of the panther the refuge serves as a safe haven for numerous other species.

Stop by the refuge office and get a copy of the refuge system map. It lists, and has the details of, each of the nation's refuges. Maybe you can set aside a little time on your next trip to visit a refuge along the way. Like visiting all of the state capitals you can set a goal of seeing each of our nations refuges and some of the greatest wildlife and scenery to be found.

Spotlight on the Staff



This month we highlight Joan Stevens, Refuge Ranger for the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. As an interpretive ranger, Joan is responsible for the public use program on the refuge including providing environmental education and interpretive programs, writing news releases, providing adequate signage, printing brochures and managing the refuge website. She is the coordinator for the refuge's hunt program and the volunteer program and is the liaison between the Friends Group and the refuge. She is also the state coordinator for the Tennessee portion of the Federal Jr. Duck Stamp program. Parts of her duties also include the design and maintenance

of public use facilities such as hiking trails, observation decks, and information kiosks.

Joan is a local and was born and raised in Paris. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1987 from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in Wildlife and Fisheries Management with a minor in Forestry. She spent two years working in Mauritania, West Africa with the Peace Corps as a Forester before working as a Fisheries Biologist for two years with the U.S. Forest Service in Virginia. She transferred to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1992 as a Fisheries Biologist in Colorado. Joan came home to work on the refuge in 1999 where she switched emphasis to her personal love of interpretive and public use work. She continues to live in Paris with her husband Scott and two daughters, Jessica and Erin.

Check out the new Friends Website at:
www.invertfriends.org

Friends of Tennessee
National Wildlife Refuge
3006 Dinkins Lane
Paris, TN 38242



**Friends Of Tennessee
National Wildlife Refuge
Board Members**

Dan Dziekonski – President
Connie McSwain - Vice Pres.
Margarette Blanton - Secretary
Joe Snow - Treasurer
Ann Williams
Laurien and Ann Stapp
George Jackey
Michele Atkins

Upcoming Events

Refuge Discovery Series

Sat. Oct. 20: Girl Friends Day

9:00 – 12:00 at Britton Ford Hiking Trail

Brittney Viers, graduate student at Murray State University will lead this unique morning tailored just for women. She will lead participants on an informative hike ending with a box lunch at the trail.

(open to all women - \$5 for box lunch)

Tues. Nov. 13: Duck and Goose Calling

6:30 – 7:30 pm at Paris office

Don't let that duck or goose fly over and away. Come and learn tips, techniques on duck and goose calling from John Paul Moody.

(open to public)

Tues. Dec. 11: Your National Wildlife Refuge System

6:30 – 7:30 pm at Paris office

President Dan Dziekonski will lead a virtual tour showing samples of the many different refuges across the country. See exciting new places you may want to visit some day. *(open to public)*