



Tennessee Refuge Reflections

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Connie McSwain

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

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

Refuge Manager
Barron Crawford
Office Hours
M-F 7:00 to 3:30

Benefactors

Johnny Allen

Paris! Magazine

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Many Thanks!

Wishing the World would just slow down long enough to catch your breath? Tired of the crime, the bad economy, and the traumas of the world? Would you like to take your family to a place that is quite and safe to reconnect? Would you like to a place where your pockets can be empty but your hearts full?

There is such a place to fulfill those needs and it is just down the road from your front door. Remember the days when families picnicked by the lake with egg salad or bologna sandwiches? Remember wiggling your toes in the water, fishing off the shore and talking softly with your family about hopes and dreams? Yea, people really used to do these things! The cost was minimal but the rewards great. What about a romantic dinner at the Look Out under the stars with the animals serenading. Cheap, but pretty nice.

The air will soon turn a little crisp and the leaves will begin to change. The hiking trails await you and the fresh air is stimulating! Enjoy yourself at the Tennessee Wildlife Refuge.

P.S. Don't forget to check out the Friends' Discovery series.

Connie McSwain
President

Manager's Corner

By Barron Crawford

Well you cannot tell by the thermometer but summer is over. All of our student hires are back at school and refuge staff and volunteers are busy trying to finish up a couple of projects prior to the closure of both refuges for waterfowl sanctuaries. This has been another exciting summer on Tennessee NWR and Cross Creeks NWR. Some of the projects we completed this year include the construction of a new pole barn at Duck River Bottoms, new RV pads at Cross Creeks for volunteers and seasonal employees, Pool 9/Wood Duck Pond levee rehabilitation project, major sections of the outer TVA levee have been repaired, and road repairs on both refuges from storm damage.

We are currently reviewing the draft report from the National Park Service concerning the Mount Zion church. Once we have reviewed the draft the NPS will incorporate our comments and submit a final report by the end of September. Once we have the recommendations from the NPS we will begin seeking funds for restoration efforts. I see the Friends Group playing an integral part in the fund raising efforts.

The other big news is construction on the new Headquarters and Visitor Center (HQ/VC) has begun. Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure Group and their sub contractor TG Constructors have begun work on the Britton Ford Peninsula. Shaw predicts construction will last about a year and then the exhibit designer will install all the exhibits. So by next fall (hopefully for National Wildlife Refuge Week the second week in October 2012) we should be ready to dedicate our new facility. For the next year refuge staff, Friends members and volunteers will be busy preparing for the grand opening. Deputy Refuge Manager Troy Littrell and Refuge Ranger Joan Stevens will be meeting with local school officials to discuss the new facility and the type of environmental programs that we will be offering to meet the local school needs. The new facility will provide an inviting venue for conducting the Friends Refuge Discovery Series programs. We will need assistance from the Friends Group and volunteers with greeting visitors, operating the Friends Group book store, providing programs to school groups, and maintaining the gardens and surrounding grounds. Anyone interested in helping with staffing the Visitor Center, setting up and/or operating the Friends Group book store or helping with environmental education programs please contact the refuge office or one of the Friends Group board members. I will keep everyone updated on the progress of the new HQ/VC through the Friends Newsletter as construction proceeds.

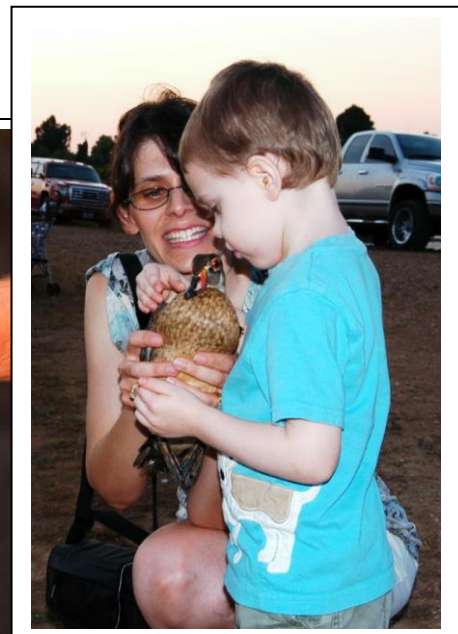
Barron Crawford

SUMMER ACTIVITIES ON THE REFUGE

Canoeing on the Refuge – July 16, 2011



Wood Duck Banding - July 25, 2011



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.

Birders Corner

by Richard Graves

“Hérons” are the subject of this edition. On every National Wildlife Refuge, where there is water, very likely you will see a Heron standing majestically doing nothing. If time is spent watching a Heron, you will see a very swift stabbing move with its dagger like bill, and dinner is served. Pictures of various Herons are shown below, along with some Heron action.



Black Crowned Night



Little Blue



Tri-Colored



Great Blue



Green



The bill of the Heron is shaped like a dagger, with a very sharp tip.



The strike is swift, a fraction of a second.



The Heron is very effective in capturing their meal as shown. Inside the bill are small sharp teeth tilted towards the throat, like barbs, to grip the prey. Once prey, fish in this case, are secured in the grasp of the bill... it can only go in one direction. The fish above are manipulated to a headfirst position and swallowed whole. It is a very interesting process to watch a Heron swallow a relatively large fish as shown above. So, next time you see a Heron, watch for a while!

Richard Graves



Membership Renewal Notice

Thank you for your membership in Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge!
Your membership has created opportunities for many people to interact with nature
as well as providing habitat restoration and creating public use facilities for the
refuge. Please renew your membership for 2011.
For more information please call 731-642-2091

Mail to:
**Friends of
Tennessee NWR
3006 Dinkins Lane
Paris, TN 38242**

Name _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____
E-mail: _____
Needed to receive newsletter

- Individual - \$15
 Family - \$25
 Corporate - \$100
 Benefactor - \$500
 I would like to help with an
additional \$ _____

If you have not yet renewed your membership or know someone who would like to be a part of our refuge Friends' Group, please use the form above to provide us with your information. We appreciate your support and welcome your participation!

Attention Members! Please contact Vickie Miller by emailing her at milfam4@wk.net so that we can get your email address on file. This will enable us to send out our newsletters via the internet to save money and paper! Help us go "Green" by receiving your email newsletter. Of course, if you don't use the internet, we will continue to mail your copy as usual. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Your Committee Chairmen – Please contact to volunteer!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Vickie Miller 731-247-3288 milfam4@wk.net
HABITAT AND WILDLIFE REFUGE PROJECTS - Richard Graves 731-363-6221 rgraves622@gmail.com
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH - Connie McSwain 731-336-8197 conniemcswain@bellsouth.net
GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING - Joyce North 731-232-8526 wcnorth@wk.net
VISITOR'S CENTER BOOKSTORE - Wendy Crawford 731-642-5610
MT. ZION CHURCH RESTORATION - Candi Norwood 731-363-0079

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Larry Greer Donna Smith
Kathy Petrie Debra Barnes
Tim and Jennifer Goss

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

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

Connie McSwain - President
Vickie Miller - Secretary
Joyce North - Treasurer
Laurien and Ann Stapp
Carlton Gerrell
Kim Miller
Richard Graves
Ski Witzofsky
Joe Casey

Upcoming Events

Call the Refuge Office at 731-642-2091 for information about any of these events.

Saturday, September 24th Monarch Butterfly Tagging

10:00 am at Duck River Bottoms – Join biologist Clayton Ferrell in the height of Monarch migration in the bottoms. He will explain these fascinating butterflies, their life cycle and migration patterns before turning you loose to see what you can catch with a net. Each butterfly will be recorded and tagged before release. He has done this program for school groups before and does an excellent job!

Saturday, October 15th Sensory Awareness Night Hike

5:30 pm at Memorial Park, Paris - Sharpen your night vision and rely on ALL of your senses to truly experience the wonder of the outdoors at night. You may be surprised at what you hear, feel, smell, see, and DON'T see! Please bring a flashlight and wear closed toed shoes. Hike will be canceled in case of rain.

Tuesday, Nov. 15th Backyard Critters

6:30 pm at the Refuge Office in Paris - The LBL Nature Station will be on hand to help you identify the critters that explore your backyard. Familiarize yourself with tracks and other telltale signs of the visitors passing through!