



# 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

### Corporate Sponsors

Cindy and Jim Barnett

Dr Danny Kimberlin

Dr Gene Gulish

Beaver Dam North  
Development/Brit  
Kirby

**Many Thanks!**

On your Friends of the Wildlife Refuge Board, there is a wide variety of different people who view the Refuge from many different perspectives. Even though they all work hard to preserve and help the Refuge, they each have their own special parts of the Refuge.

Birds are Joyce's and Richard's love. Ann preserves nature on canvas. Vickie likes the trails and the water. Kim, Vickie's husband, likes to tear up the ground with big machines to improve conservation efforts! Jennifer walks the trails and dreams of visiting tourists. Carlton brings his Boy Scout knowledge to the mix of Refuge activities. Ski loves everything about the Refuge. Joe captures wildlife with his camera and wood carvings. My passion is for children to know and experience nature on the Refuge and kayaking. My point is that there is something for everyone on the Refuge.

I totally understand that you as one person cannot save the whole world, but you can help preserve your little piece of it. If one person can do a lot, just think what a group of people can accomplish. As they say, "More hands, less work". Actually helping on the Refuge is a mission of love not work. We play a lot too!

The "Friends" meet each second Monday of the month at 8 am at the Refuge office. It is a causal meeting of friends talking and making plans for the Refuge. You will be welcomed with open arms and some coffee. Plan now to visit and see what being a Friend of the Refuge is all about.

See ya there!

Connie McSwain  
President

# Manager's Corner

*By Barron Crawford*

Spring at Tennessee NWR and Cross Creeks NWR has been violent again this year. First both refuges were hit hard by a series of severe storms in April that damaged structures on both refuges and sent hundreds of large trees crashing to the ground. Crews on both refuges have been busy since late April and throughout May clearing trees from roads for the public and our cooperator farmers. Also Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley experienced record flood levels again this year. Kentucky Lake surpassed last year's record level of 369.9 by 3.3 feet for a new record of 373.2 feet. The water has receded to summer pool and the staff is busy assessing flood damage and making emergency repairs. At first glance it appears that most roads do not have as much damage as last year. The outer levee on Duck River Bottoms sustained heavy damage.

The news from this spring is not all bad. There is some very positive news to report as well. The Junior Duck Stamp competition was a huge success thanks to refuge Ranger Joan Stevens, numerous volunteers and the Friends of Tennessee NWR. We had 606 entries from 24 schools and 10 home schools. The awards ceremony was held at the Bass Pro Shop in Nashville, TN. The awards ceremony was a huge success and it appears Bass Pro Shop wants to continue to host this event in the future. I hope we can continue to count on our numerous volunteers and the support of Friends Group for this great program.

We had a very successful visioning meeting with numerous suggestions for projects and several committees established to tackle these projects. From this meeting one project that stood out as extremely important to the staff and the Friends Group is the restoration of the Mount Zion Church on the Old 23<sup>rd</sup> District. The Mount Zion Church is a historic structure first constructed in the 1850's and later remodeled in the late 1890's. The first step in restoring this structure is conducting a comprehensive condition assessment. The Service developed a proposal and requested funds from the Atlanta Regional office to hire a contractor to conduct the condition assessment and to develop a restoration and maintenance plan. We were successful in obtaining the funds and we have entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to perform this work. We should receive their report by this fall.

The other exciting news is that the Service has reached an agreement on all the outstanding issues with the construction firm for the construction of the Headquarters and Visitor Center at Britton Ford.

So as you can see, we will have another busy summer. The Mount Zion Church restoration committee will need several folks to help conduct outreach and raise funds. Another area we need help is the building of wood duck boxes to replace all those destroyed by the flood. Ducks Unlimited has committed to provide cypress wood to build about 150 boxes. I encourage all of you to contact one of the committee chairs listed in the newsletter and see how you can become active in working on all the exciting projects that have been identified.

Barron Crawford

# Friends Group Committees

Below is a list of committees involved in the operation and promotion of our “Friends Group” in supporting our Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. We are always in need of fresh faces and ideas to help with the many aspects of our mission. We encourage you as “Friends” members, to get involved in our efforts. Feel free to contact the Chairman of any of these committees to find out how you can help!

## Chairman

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE -  
Recruitment, newsletters, website/facebook

Vickie Miller  
731-247-3288  
[milfam4@wk.net](mailto:milfam4@wk.net)

HABITAT AND WILDLIFE REFUGE PROJECTS -  
Wood Duck Banding, nest box projects, mowing

Richard Graves  
731-363-6221  
[rgraves622@gmail.com](mailto:rgraves622@gmail.com)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH -  
Art Show, Waterfowl Festival, Wood Duck Banding

Connie McSwain  
731-336-8197  
[conniemcswain@bellsouth.net](mailto:conniemcswain@bellsouth.net)

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

- Joyce North  
731-232-8526  
[wcnorth@wk.net](mailto:wcnorth@wk.net)

VISITOR’S CENTER  
Bookstore volunteers

- Wendy Crawford  
731-642-5610

MT. ZION CHURCH RESTORATION

- Candi Norwood  
731-363-0079

## 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*

Since the last Birder's Corner was written, I've had the pleasure of visiting various National Wildlife Refuges and I have taken over 3000 photos. In this edition of Birder's Corner, I would like to share with you some of my more interesting birding experiences on our National Wildlife Refuges this year.

## **Birds of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, Feb. 2011**



American Avocet



Roseate Spoonbil



Whooping Cranes, endangered



American Oystercatcher



Crowned Night Heron



Long Billed Curlew

## **Birds of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Reelfoot and Big Sandy.**



Barred Owl



Black Necked Stilt



Yellow Legs



Great Egret



Chipping Sparrow



Albinoized Chipping Sparrow



Dunlin



Dickcissel in flight



# 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER!**

For those members who joined the Friend's Group before July 1, 2010, and have not yet paid your yearly renewal, please take the time to complete this form and return to the Refuge office with your membership fees. We value your membership and hope you will renew! If you aren't sure if you're current...call Joan at 731-642-2091.

## **A REQUEST OF ALL OUR MEMBERS**

In an effort to conform to a more "green" way of conducting business, we are preparing to go "paperless" with our quarterly newsletters before the end of the year. This will also reduce our expenses and allow us to reach you in a more economical manner. We have many email addresses on file, but would like to have more in order to reach all of you via the internet. This edition of the newsletter will be sent to all email addresses that we have. If you do not receive an emailed copy, please contact Vickie Miller at 731-247-3288 or Joan Stevens at 731-642-2091 to correct your email or add your address to our files. If you do not have an email account, we will continue to mail your issue in the future. We would, however, appreciate those of you who are able, to receive your copy by email. Please be sure to contact us if you do not receive your emailed copy so that we can update your information. We don't want you to miss a single page of our newsletter, keeping you informed and enlightened about our beautiful refuge and the many activities you will find there! **THANK YOU**  
(A few printed copies will be available at the Refuge Office as well)

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

**Carlton and Norma Gerrell**  
**Brad Davidson**

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

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



**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.

### **Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> – Edible Plants**

**6:00 pm at Britton Ford Hiking Trail** – Let your guide help you to identify the amazing world of edible plants found on your refuge. A bit of hiking will be involved, so bring your walking shoes and some bug spray!

### **Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> Canoeing on the Refuge**

**10:00 am at Cross Creeks NWR in Dover, TN** Meet at Cross Creeks Visitor's Center parking lot for a morning of canoeing. Canoes and life jackets will be provided or you can bring your own! No age limit, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call the Refuge Office at 642-2091 to reserve your seat! We need a head count so we know how much equipment to bring. Don't forget a snack and the sun screen!

### **Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> Astronomy & Star Gazing**

**6:30 pm at Swayne Point Boat Ramp** – Led by Astronomer Harold Myers, this is the only night time activity for the year. Don and friends will bring their portable, but large telescopes to interpret the night sky. Bring your bug spray, lawn chairs and enjoy an evening on the refuge!

### **Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> 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!