



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Southeast Region

E-GRITS NEWSLETTER



Beaver Cave entrance. Photo credit: USFWS

Partnership conservation efforts preclude need to list rare Kentucky cave beetle

Conservation efforts at Beaver Cave in Harrison County, Kentucky, have enabled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove a Kentucky cave beetle from the list of candidate species under the Endangered Species Act. These conservation efforts will reduce or eliminate threats to the beetle's survival, precluding the need for listing it under the Endangered Species Act. For the past three years, the Service's Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office worked with the landowner of a 60-acre dairy farm and several partner agencies, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and the Kentucky Division of Forestry, to implement conservation efforts to ensure long-term protection for the Beaver Cave beetle. The beetle is only known to live in Beaver Cave, a limestone cave located in the Bluegrass Region of central Kentucky. First discovered in the cave in 1966, the beetle

is a small (8 millimeters in length -- about one-third of an inch), eyeless, predatory insect that feeds upon small cave invertebrates such as spiders, mites, springtails, and millipedes. Conservation agreements and contracts for the beetle's protection cover an eight-acre area of the farm that houses the entrance to Beaver Cave and the most sensitive portions of its basin threatened by the farm's operations. The Service's Partner's Program for Fish and Wildlife provided \$12,500 for construction of a concrete stream crossing and fence installation associated with a livestock staging area near the primary dairy buildings. Partner agencies provided additional funding of \$37,000 to build a metal gate at the cave entrance to stop trespassers, establish a forested buffer around the cave entrance, install additional livestock exclusion fencing around the cave and surface tributaries on the property, install a heavy use feeding area, and develop a rotational grazing program for the dairy operation. More photos in [Photo Album](#).

Submitted by Michael Floyd, PhD, Ecological Services Field Office, Frankfort, KY

Plicate rocksnails on road to recovery

On October 3, 2006, more than 31,000 artificially cultured plicate rocksnails (*Leptoxis plicata*- endangered) were released into the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River near Birmingham, Alabama. This was actually the third release of this species at this site in as many years and is the culmination of an 8-year effort to protect the species. In 1998, the species was reduced to a single population that occupied less than a 30-mile reach of the Locust Fork. Today, the species is recovering, showing signs of recruitment and reproduction, and expanding its range. The culturing and successful reintroduction of this species represents a tremendous positive step for future aquatic recovery efforts in Alabama. It is now up to local, state, and federal water and land management authorities to ensure habitats and water quality are protected. The snails were produced at the newly established Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center (AABC), which is a non-game hatchery owned and operated by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) that is dedicated exclusively to the restoration of native mussels, snails, and fishes in Alabama's waters. Kudos to the ADCNR for their efforts to protect and conserve imperiled aquatic species in Alabama. Another photo in [Photo Album](#).



Plicate rocksnails. Photos by P. Johnson, ADCNR

Behind the Scenes--



Jacksonville Camera Club president John Reed instructs a participant during the Nature Photography Workshop held at Okefenokee NWR. Photo by Sallie Gentry.

Take your best shot!

On September 23rd and 24th, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge hosted a Nature Photography Workshop. Partnering with the Jacksonville Camera Club, the workshop filled up within days, prompting a waiting list of over a dozen people! John Reed, President of the Jacksonville Camera Club, reviewed basic fundamentals, such as depth of field, exposure, and shutter speed. Retired Service audio/visual specialist and current volunteer George Gentry planned the afternoon field exercises. Sunday morning found the participants at the historic Chesser Island Homestead, where Reed and Gentry led them in hands-on practice of the fundamentals they had learned the previous day. "We hope to encourage visitors to take an active interest in wildlife photography," said Refuge Ranger Sallie Gentry, who organized the workshop, "Hopefully, this will lead to a better appreciation of their natural heritage.

Submitted by Sallie Gentry, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Folkston, GA

Bragging Rights --



Elise MacDonald and Dawson Bradford with the fish they caught. FWS photo.

New "special event ponds" at Noxubee proving to be a great asset

The Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi created two new ponds for youth fishing rodeos and special events. The Natural Resources Conservation Service helped with the design and layout of the pond, and the Noxubee staff used rented equipment to accomplish the rest. With assistance from Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks the ponds were stocked with over 600 pounds of catfish. This summer, Noxubee hosted its Fourth Annual Youth Fishing Derby at these new ponds. A total of 120 children attended. A new "Ladies Bait Your Hook" program also was a big hit. Designed for first-time female anglers, the event attracted 16 participants, aged 20 to 76 years. The program's information booklet was created by refuge staff, and the indoor portion of the class was taught by Kris Godwin, the State Director of the Mississippi program, USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Wildlife Services. After about an hour of freshwater fishing information and of course some knot-tying, the ladies went to the ponds. Everyone caught at least one fish, and all had a great time.

Submitted by Andrea Dunstan, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Brooksville, MS



The ladies had plenty of room to spread out and fish. FWS photo.



Hurricane Response Trailer. FWS Photo.

Hurricane Response Trailer unveiled to the public at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

On Saturday, October 14, during the Okefenokee Festival Parade in downtown Folkston, Georgia, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge unveiled one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's newest disaster relief tools. The tool, a 35-foot-long Hurricane Response Trailer, was pulled by a new 2006 Freightliner truck. The trailer is designed to be a self-sustaining mobile command trailer, which can enter an area ravaged by either a natural or man-made disaster and provide immediate on-the-ground support for both local authorities and Service emergency response teams. The trailer is outfitted with wireless and satellite communications, supplies of water, emergency rations, extra fuel, emergency generators, and tools, such

as chainsaws, and safety gear, and can it sustain a crew in the field for two to three days.

Submitted by Shawn Gillette, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Folkston GA

Successful youth deer hunt held on Santee National Wildlife Refuge

After climbing into your stand, you haul up your shotgun and take out your afternoon snack. Looking around, you spot a flock of wild turkeys off to your right and pull out your binoculars for a closer look. "Wow", there's an osprey soaring overhead and a red-tailed hawk surveying the field in front of you. It's time to get serious about hunting so you get comfortable and wait for that big buck to walk by your stand. Sound familiar? Any of the 25 youth hunters who participated in a recent Youth Only deer hunt on the Bluff Unit of Santee National Wildlife Refuge could have made these statements. Wesley Murphy of Sumter, South Carolina could add, "I got a nice, 160-pound, eight-point buck". And, "Oh, by the way, my Mom was my hunting partner." Raymond Cofield, of Cottageville, South Carolina could brag that he had killed an eight-point buck weighing 210 pounds and a 125-pound doe. Summerville native Brandon Woodward's voice might swell with pride as he announces that he got his first deer ever, a three-point point buck weighing 125 pounds. A total of eight deer were harvested by the 25 young people who hunted for three afternoons in late September. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation provided hunter orange vests and caps and presented each hunter with a hunting knife. They also assisted refuge staff and volunteers with a refresher on hunter safety, transporting hunters, and the weighing and checking of harvested deer.



Wesley Murphy and his mother with his buck. Photo by Kay McCutcheon. USFWS.

Submitted by Kay McCutcheon, Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Summerton, SC



Sarah Welker shares refuge facts with American Bass Anglers at their registration. Photo by Terry Crutcher, Stewart County Chamber of Commerce Director.

Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge supports American Bass Anglers

The American Bass Anglers (ABA) National Championship Tournament was held on Kentucky Lake near Tennessee and Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuges in early October. Wildlife Interpretive Specialist Sarah Welker staffed a Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge exhibit and provided National Wildlife Refuge Week information to 450 anglers at the tournament registration held in Dover, Tennessee on October 1. The ABA, formally Military Bass Anglers, also honored the 101st Screaming Eagles from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky with a fishing day and star-studded concert at Paris Landing State Park on October 14. The ABA was assisted by Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge Complex Law Enforcement Officers. Sarah Welker worked with the Stewart County Three Star Tourism Committee and Chamber of Commerce to help with these events, as well as with producing a county tourism brochure.

Fall "Far Traveler" teacher workshop great success

On Friday, October 20, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Red Wolf Recovery Program held its fall teacher workshop. Twenty-three educators enjoyed the class. Attending were 13 Duke University students with their professor, and homeschool teachers, as well as a number of non-traditional educators. Several people were working toward their North Carolina Environmental Education Certificate. Classroom instructors were Kathy Whidbee and Diane Hendry, Red Wolf Recovery Program. Kim Wheeler, executive director, Red Wolf Coalition (RWC), was also on hand to give a synopsis of the relationship between the RWC and the Service. The day was a busy one, but the highlight is the same every session: going out in the field with red wolf wildlife biologist, Chris Lucash. Chris talked with students, answered their questions and found the precious red wolf tracks for making plaster casts. The tracks were especially visible since it had just rained, and red wolf paw prints were obvious, forming deep tracks in the mud. All 23 students were anxious to teach their newly acquired red wolf recovery information to others.



Kathy Whidbee gives a Power point presentation. Photo credit: USFWS



The first photo is a picture of track casting in the field. Photo credit: USFWS

Submitted by Diane Hendry, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, Manteo, NC

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge beginning to heal from Rita's ravages

The "whine" of an airboat saddled with rusty refrigerators and the "clank, clank, clank" of an amphibious buggy as it lugs a 15,000 gallon tank across the tattered landscape are familiar sights and sounds in the hurricane-ravaged marshes of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. Since early September, over 130 clean-up personnel and tons of heavy equipment have descended on this coastal refuge strewn with nearly every item imaginable. As one examines the contents of the debris, it is disturbing to see that family belongings, homes and businesses are now represented by mangled remnants that are virtually unrecognizable.



Large oil and gas facility tank being hauled back to collection site. Photo by Roy Walter.

Submitted by Roy Walter, Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Bell City, LA

White River National Wildlife Refuge Refuge Week a Grand Success



Regional Refuge Biologist Janet

White River National Wildlife Refuge in Saint Charles, AR hosted its annual wildlife festival for Refuge Week this year on Saturday, October 7th. The event began at 9am and went on into the early afternoon with activities that included "be a bear" obstacle course, archery, birdhouse building, bird feeder making, t-shirt printing, button making, and temporary tattoos. Free interpretive boat tours were offered on the hour from 9am until 1pm and hosted wildlife programs and guided walks throughout the day. This year we added a birds of prey program with live raptors on display. An entomologist taught us how to speak "bug" with a presentation on sounds and habits of the insect world, and many children received free shooting lessons from the Arkansas Bow hunters Association. Over 450 people attended with all the stations and programs receiving high attendance. The refuge also sponsored its first "Wildlife of White River NWR Photography Contest" with judging and display of the photographs during the festival. The refuge received many entries and we expect the contest to grow in popularity every year. The winning photos will be

displayed in the visitor center to promote White River NWR and photography in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

More photos in [Photo Album](#).

Submitted by Matt Conner, White River National Wildlife Refuge, St. Charles, AR

Noxubee Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week with “Family Fun Day”

The third annual National Wildlife Refuge Week Event was very successful despite the weather. The day started off very cool and foggy. The fog refused to lift but didn't deter everyone from enjoying the event. The sun made an appearance around noon, warming all the dedicated volunteers. The Friends of Noxubee Refuge provided great volunteer support and free hot dogs for our visitors! Activities included face painting, hand painting, making turkey calls, paper crafts for children, which included making a pop-up alligator, bat mask, butterfly pin, origami bat, and ladybug card. Representatives of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Wildlife and Parks instructed the visitors on rabbit-stick throwing much to the delight of many adults as well as children. Other booths were manned by the Army Corps' of Engineers demonstrating water safety procedures and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks with a laser shot system, Wildlife and Fisheries Department of Mississippi State University (MSU) featured a display of furs and antlers, fly tying and casting, and insect collections from the entomology museum at MSU. Other activities included casting practice for prizes, tomahawk throwing, archery practice – shooting at an apple on a mannequin's head, fire equipment demonstrations allowing the visitors to pump water from the pumper truck, canoeing, and elevating a hunting blind for use by the disabled. Music was provided by a live band, Jubilee. The Friends Amateur Nature Photography Contest winners were announced and prizes were awarded. Thirtyfive entries were received and judged by professional photographers Buddy Laird and David McEwen. All photographs entered are on display in the visitor center. We also gave awards to our first two Junior Refuge Rangers, an environmentally based program developed by the Friend's of Noxubee Refuge for youths eight to fourteen years of age. To earn the Rank of Junior Refuge Ranger the youths have to attend six qualifying “Saturday's on the Refuge” programs aimed at outdoor education.



Jacob Dunstan tries his hand at tying a fly. Photo credit: Andrea Dunstan

Submitted by Andrea Dunstan, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Brooksville, MS



Jason Hunt uses a microscope to determine the developmental stage of a shortnose sturgeon egg. Photo credit: Jaci Zelko, USFWS

Fish Technology Center continues shortnose sturgeon egg development project

A two-year study on incubation of shortnose sturgeon eggs at various temperatures to determine embryo development rates was completed during the annual spring spawning season at Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery, Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina. Eggs were incubated at various temperatures and preserved at time periods throughout development. Egg samples are currently being evaluated, but data from this study should aid in subsequent studies on sturgeon physiology and calculating spawning times of shortnose sturgeon eggs collected in the wild. More photos in [Photo Album](#).

Submitted by Jaci Zelko, Warm Springs Fish Technology Center, Warm Springs, GA

Friends of Dahomey dedicate new Herbert Nature Trail

On October 5, 2006, nearly 30 people helped dedicate the new Herbert Nature Trail which was built by Friends of Dahomey and staff from Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge. The one-mile interpretive trail was named after the late J.C. Herbert and his wife Nona, who are charter members of the Friends of Dahomey. They are well known in the local area for their birding expertise and support of conservation. The proud Mrs. Herbert was on hand to cut the ribbon for the official opening of the trail. The interpretive trail winds around Happy Hollow Lake through a re-forested field and provides visitors with an all-weather surface where they can hike, observe wildlife, and learn about the natural elements that surround the trail. Also, an interpretive brochure is available to guide visitors through the 15 stopping points along the trail. Next year, the refuge is planning to construct a new fishing pier on Happy Hollow Lake which will be an added attraction for visitors using the trail.



L to R: Back row: Joyce Herbert, Jake Easley, Bill Herbert. Middle row: Jim Herbert, Rebecca Easley, Rachel Herbert. Front row: Nona Herbert, Friends President Tom Wear, Eva Bonta and Refuge Mgr. Alejandro Galvan. Photo by Larry Pace.

Submitted by Alejandro Galvan, Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge, Boyle, MS



Wild Things returns to Southeast Louisiana Refuges

Approximately 1,500 visitors enjoyed the annual Wild Things festival at Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex on Oct 14. Canoe, van, and pontoon boat tours allowed visitors to experience Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge on a beautiful fall day. Over 300 entries received in the Wild Things Youth Art Competition made for a great show, and 23 guest exhibitors featured hands-on activities and stimulating displays. Both the staff and the public were glad to see this event return after being cancelled in the wake of Katrina last year. More photos in [Photo Album](#).

Displays featured all refuges in the SE LA Complex. Photo credit: USFWS

Submitted by Byron Fortier, Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex, Lacombe, LA

Friends Fish Dinner on Clarks River Refuge

The Friends of Clarks River have been working diligently this year to raise funds to assist in the construction of two shallow water impoundments at the soon to open Environmental Education and Recreation Area (EERA) on the refuge. Now that a significant portion of the development has been completed, the Refuge Friends Group wanted to invite all their members, and community partners that have been involved in the ongoing project to a fish fry at the site. To add to the excitement, Refuge Manager, Michael Johnson made sure that the stocking of the fishpond on the EERA was coordinated with the dinner. Everyone was proud to see the thousands of fish being released, knowing they helped contribute to the community based project. The EERA, once opened, is expected to be an extremely positive venture for the refuge, community, and Refuge Friends Group.



Clarks River putting fish in pond. Photo credit: USFWS



Friends fish dinner on Clarks River Refuge Photo credit: USFWS

Submitted by Stacey Campbell, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, Benton, KY

Centennial Trail is now complete

The Centennial Trail represents the completion of a vision from Lyne Askins in her days at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. The trail is 2.2 miles long and connects two trails. It also has 20 9" X 12" trail signs, two interpretive panels, five footbridges, and two boardwalks with one having an observation platform overlooking a wetland. Many hours were spent on this trail by staffs from other refuges and two interns. The trail survived two major hurricanes, and is now ready for public use. Thanks to all those people involved with the process.



Centennial Observation platform.
Centennial Trail. August 2008.
Photo by Ron Hollis

Contributed by Ron Hollis, Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Gulf Shores, AL



Volunteer Dr. Richard Shields took three days off from his busy schedule as an emergency room physician to introduce a rainbow snake and other reptiles to festival goers. Photo credit: Patricia E. Metz

Coastal Refuges sponsor fourth annual Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival

The fourth annual Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival, co-sponsored by the Savannah Coastal Refuges, was held October 13-15, with the Jekyll Island Convention Center serving as the hub of activities. Over 50 seminars and field trips were scheduled, and a variety of free programs were offered in the "Rookery," the festival's exhibit hall. The refuges' display, highlighted by a collection of reptiles and amphibians, was one of the most popular attractions.

Submitted by Patricia Metz, Savannah Coastal Refuges, GA

Hats Off --



Daphne Biologist Rob Tawes readies plants for use in the dune

Grasses in Classes: High School students help restore damaged dunes

There's nothing quite like a day at the beach. Biologists from the Service's Daphne, Alabama Field Office joined state park employees and students from Fairhope, Alabama High School, in an October outing to replant damaged dunes at Gulf State Park. Approximately 3,000 plants, and six species, were obtained by the Service under a cooperative agreement with the state park. Additional plants were provided by Fairhope High School.

The purpose of the ongoing project is to restore dunes destroyed by Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina. The dunes provide vital habitat for the Alabama beach mouse, as well as for nesting shore birds and other wildlife.

The students participated through the Grasses in the Classes Program, a cooperative effort of the Baldwin County, Alabama Board of Education, Weeks Bay Reserve, National Conservation Research Service, and the Service. Through the program, students grow plants for use in environmental restoration efforts.

Submitted by Mike Groutt, Ecological Services Field Office, Daphne, AL



Patrio Harper plants sea oats at Gulf State Park. The sea oats, when they mature, will provide food and shelter for beach wildlife and hold sand in place, accelerating the recovery of damaged dunes. Photo by Mike Groutt.



Photo Album --

Partnership conservation efforts preclude need to list rare Kentucky cave beetle -- more photos



Beaver Cave passage. Photo credit: USFWS



Beaver cave entrance and surrounding area. Photo credit: USFWS



Completed cave gate. Photo credit: USFWS



Michael Floyd, PhD, exits cave. Photo by Brent Harrel, USFWS

White River National Wildlife Refuge Refuge Week a Grand Success -- more photos



Stephanie Noble from Stuttgart making a birdfeeder to take home. Photo credit: USFWS



Souvenirs from the festival. Photo credit: USFWS

Noxubee Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week with "Family Fun Day" -- more photos



An example of the hand painting. Photo credit: Andrea Dunstan

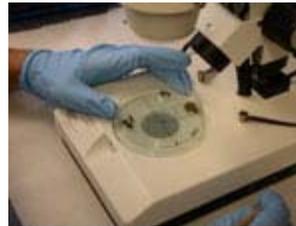


Sidney Sansing shows enthusiasm for rabbit stick throwing. Photo credit: Andrea Dunstan

Fish Technology Center continues shortnose sturgeon egg development project -- more photos



Paul Gonzalez and Jaci Zelko stir eggs during the shortnose sturgeon egg development study. Photo credit: William Wayman, USFWS



Close-up of shortnose sturgeon eggs under a dissecting microscope. Photo credit: Jaci Zelko, USFWS

Plicate rocksnails on road to recovery -- one more photo



Many Plicate rocksnails. Photos by P.Johnson, ADCNR

Wild Things returns to Southeast Louisiana Refuges -- more photos



Appreciation plaque given to former SE LA Friends Group President Michele Hubert by Supv. Park Ranger Byron Fortier. Photo credit: USFWS



Park Ranger Diane Barth presents First Place Painting award to Elise Muller at Wild Things Youth Art Competition for her work "Egrets Feeding". Photo credit: USFWS



Getting ready for visitors at 9 am. Photo credit: USFWS



Canoe tours on Bayou LaLombe were very popular. Photo credit: USFWS



Wild Things visitors enjoy the Youth Art Show. Photo credit: USFWS



A junior firefighter learns the ropes. Photo credit: USFWS



Visitor Services --

Wild celebrations at Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge



Releasing hatchling alligator snapping turtles into Black Bayou Lake during the Fall Celebration. Photo credit: USFWS

[Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#) celebrated the 2006 National Wildlife Refuge Week (NWRW) with something for everyone. On October 7, the third annual refuge photo contest was judged, ribboned entries were displayed, and author and photographer Margaret Sartor made an inspiring presentation on journaling with photographs. The Monday night Wild Tea Party included nature readings including "Alligators Don't Travel Well," presented by Refuge Manager Kelby Ouchley. During that week, Endangered Species Biologist Shauna Ginger gave a very informative program about Louisiana Black Bears, and Karen Kilpatrick, manager of the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery, spoke on "Meeting Today's Aquatic Resources Needs." Lori Randall, researcher at the National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette, fascinated the audience with Doppler Radar video images representing thousands of migrating birds rising up off the marshes of south Louisiana at sunset to continue their fights north or south.

The annual Friends of Black Bayou (FoBB) Fall Celebration is held on the Saturday of NWRW, and this year's event attracted approximately 1,500 participants. Monroe City Schools, the zoo, the children's museum, the university Museum of Natural History, the local art museum and a local gardens/museum all had activity booths relating to wildlife or nature. Amy Ouchley, education coordinator for FoBB, had a nature discovery and journaling booth with special emphasis on the migrating butterflies which were passing through the refuge. Sampling the pond life with nets was one of the most popular activities. Monroe City Schools Instructional Technology Staff facilitated activities using Probreware, Proscopes, laptops and GPS units. Even people who may have come for the free catfish dinners with all the trimmings, corndogs or hotdogs found plenty to do, from handling snakes and alligators to canoeing the lake.



Ringin' the bell to announce the



Refuge volunteer working a learning station in the Conservation Learning Center. Photo credit: USFWS

Programs during the week and the Fall Celebration were well attended and enjoyed by the participants. National Wildlife Refuge Week activities and an annual Fall Celebration are great ways to get people on the refuge and show them just how valuable wildlife refuges are to their communities as well as to the wildlife resources.



Boys having fun using Probeware to investigate lake water quality during. Photo credit: USFWS

Submitted by Gay Brantley, Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Monroe, LA

Wage Grade Profile --



Amy Midgett and her fire tractor. Photo by Donnie Harris

Amy Midgett likes action and variety in job at Alligator River

Amy Midgett, engineering equipment operator at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in Manteo, North Carolina, enjoys working for the Fish and Wildlife Service because she never does the same thing twice.

"Every day at the refuge is a new challenge and a learning experience," says Amy. "You can be entering weather data into a computer database, fighting a wildfire, performing search and rescue operations by boat, helping to install water control structures, or flying in a helicopter performing prescribed burns."

Amy has worked at Alligator River during her entire 15-year U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service career. She recently helped fight a wildfire on Bodie Island and participated in the demolition and removal of a building at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge's Work Center.

Amy and her daughters, Rachael (aged 3) and Hannah (aged 6) love to go horseback riding on the refuge to observe the wildlife. Amy and Hannah like to surf, and her entire family, including her husband Gaither, enjoys fishing and shrimping.

Submitted by Elsie Davis, External Affairs, Atlanta, GA