



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Southeast Region

SOUTHEASTERN CURRENTS

JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

[Home Page](#) [Behind the Scenes](#) [Bragging Rights](#) [Hats Off](#) [Photo Album](#) [Wage Grade](#) [Visitor Services](#)

Bringing back the swamp

Later this year, the first holes will be punched in 16 miles of levee 30 feet high clearing the way for the restoration of 19,000-acres of habitat for wild turkey, black bears, migratory birds and aquatic species.

In the late 1960s, this bottomland hardwood swamp along the Ouachita River in north Louisiana began to vanish, at least from a biological perspective. Speculators, reacting to record soybean prices, cleared the swamp, constructed a massive levee system to prohibit natural backwater flooding, and began farming operations that for the most part never came to fruition.

Thirty years later when this area became part of the Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge, conservationists began to envision a restoration project of an unprecedented scale. Thus, the Mollicy Project, named after a local bayou, was born. When completed, it will be the largest floodplain restoration project in the nation.

The project is divided into two phases: reforestation and levee removal. Phase 1 began in 1997 and involved the largest single bottomland hardwood reforestation project in the country taking six years to plant more than 9,200 acres with native tree species.

The second phase of the project is more complex and entails restoring the swamp's hydrology. After the initial breaching of the levees later this year, work will begin to remove these massive levees by pushing them back into the borrow pits made when the levees were first built. It will be a labor intensive process taking years to complete.

The scale and complexity of Phase 2 requires expertise from many partners. The Nature Conservancy has boldly stepped forward to become a key partner and is already providing crucial planning and design resources through surveys and hydrological studies. Extensive monitoring plans also are under development to help determine pre and post hydrologic and ecologic conditions. Refuge staff is working with other partners including the Lafayette Ecological Services office, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Geological Survey, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Benefits of the Mollicy project are numerous. Flood storage capacity for downstream cities, like Monroe, will increase and habitat



Birds in flight at the Mollicy project. Photo by Gypsy Hanks.

for resident wildlife, migratory birds and aquatic species will be restored with the end result being a naturally functioning wetland ecosystem. Monitoring is underway in the reforestation phase and conservation delivery, or on the ground efforts, will begin later this year for Phase 2 of the project.

The Mollicy project is a great example of how elements of the landscape conservation framework (biological planning, conservation design, conservation delivery, decision-based monitoring and assumption-driven research) can be applied.

Submitted by Kelby Ouchley, North Louisiana Refuges Complex,, West Monroe, Louisiana

Behind the Scenes--



Mama bear watches as cubs play on Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge near the Evans Road Fire. Photo by Robert Vanderpool.

Wildfires: How the Service prepares for them on National Wildlife Refuges

On June 1, a lightning strike that occurred on private land adjacent to Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Columbia, North Carolina, sparked a wildfire that, as of June 25, had burned more than 41,060 acres. Firefighters, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the North Carolina Forest Service, and several other local, state and federal agencies are working to contain the fire which, as of June 25, was 75 percent contained.

“This wildfire was almost predictable,” said Robert Eaton, the Service’s Southeast Regional deputy chief of the Division of Fire Management. “Due to the extreme drought, high temperatures, and low humidity in eastern North Carolina, we have already been preparing for a wildfire of this magnitude.”

How do national wildlife refuges prepare for wildfires?

Preparation for wildfires starts long before the fire even occurs. Prescribed burns often are one of the most effective techniques.

“Prescribed burning on national wildlife refuges is used to control the amount of dense vegetation or “fuel” and lessen the possibility of a damaging wildfire,” says Kelley Van Druten, wildlife urban interface specialist for the nine eastern national wildlife refuges in North Carolina. “The practice of prescribed burning is also used to improve wildlife habitat.”

One of the ways the Service prepares for potential wildfires like the one on Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is to establish a series of fuel breaks along refuge boundaries near communities and in the interior of the refuge. Pocosin Lakes also installed three water control structures and acquired grant money to provide 16 local volunteer fire departments with wildland fire gear and training opportunities.



White-tailed deer fawn on private land near Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge sought shelter from smoldering peat and smoke in a shallow ditch. Photo by Frank Hudgins.

Refuge managers also prepare to fight wildfires by regularly maintaining their equipment, such as tractors, plows, engines, helicopters, and fire gear. Refuge firefighters throughout the Southeast also attend an Annual Fire Management Officer Workshop to get up-to-date information about fire safety, current fire policy, planning procedures, and training opportunities. In addition, all Service wildland firefighters must be red-carded and achieve an arduous rating on the "Pack Test."

Wildfires are wide-ranging and unpredictable and threatened communities, as well as refuges. What can you do to protect your home?

Van Druten offers several suggestions:

- Design and landscape your home with wildfire safety in mind by selecting materials and plants that can help contain fire, rather than fuel it. Use non-combustible material on the roof and planting fire-resistant shrubs and trees.
- Create a 30-100 foot safety zone around your home by keeping up with routine maintenance and regularly cleaning roofs and gutters, removing brush and dead limbs and mowing grass.
- Plan your water needs for a disaster situation by ensuring hydrants, swimming pools or small water structures are around your house.

For more information on how to protect your home from wildfire damage go to www.firewise.org

For more information on the Pocosin Lake National Wildlife Refuge wildfire please see the North Carolina Incident Management Team website at <http://inciweb.org/state/34>

Submitted by Sharon Fuller, Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Farmerville, Louisiana

Bragging Rights --



Curious boy observes macro-invertebrates. Photo by Nicole Morris.

Warm Springs Fish Technology Center celebrates Earth Day

The Warm Springs Fish Technology Center and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources celebrated an Earth Day "Go Green" Festival at F.D. Roosevelt State Park on Sunday, April 20.. This two-day event focused on promoting environmental awareness and eco-friendly alternatives. The Tech Center provided information and activities on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, monofilament recycling, amphibian conservation, and fish and fishing techniques.

A Nature Scavenger Hunt was conducted challenging children to identify an animal, insect, or plant and describe its physical characteristics, habitat, calls,



Chester Figiel talks to crowd about the importance of amphibian conservation. Photo by Nicole Morris.

and behaviors. This activity encouraged the children and parents to take a walk in the woods, turn over rocks, and become curious about nature. Other activities included a live crayfish touch tank and a dissecting microscope for observing live macroinvertebrates. Additionally, numerous handouts were given to more than 90 children and adults; these handouts included fish identification guides, educational coloring books, and temporary tattoos.

During the Earth Day weekend, several other agencies and organizations presented information and provided activities, including guided nature hikes and a geocaching game (adventure game for GPS users) to promote environmental awareness and conservation.

Submitted by Nicole Morris, Warm Springs Fish Technology Center, Georgia



Visitors enjoy shopping for native plants. Photo by Sharon Fuller.

Black Bayou Lake NWR conducts native plant sale

The first native plant sale at Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge attracted gardeners from miles around and resulted in the sale of more than 2,000 plants. The two-day sale in late March was the product of a highly successful partnership between the refuge, Friends of Black Bayou, the Monroe Garden Study League, the Boy Scouts, and the Kalorama Nature Preserve. Our dedicated partners helped construct a greenhouse, collect and clean seeds, plant seeds and pot plants, advertise the event, and load the sold plants into the customers' vehicles. The project promoted the conservation of native plants by encouraging their use in home landscaping. Hundreds of happy gardeners with armloads of native wildflowers got the message.

Submitted by Kelby Ouchley, North Louisiana Refuge Complex, Farmerville, Louisiana

Greenville High School students use skills to benefit Warm Springs Fish Hatchery

Construction Class members from Greenville High School in Georgia readied five used picnic tables for the public use area at the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. The Friends of Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery purchased these tables from the Greenville Lions Club. All of the tables originally were used in a camp ground setting and suffered from years of use and multiple coats of paint.

The students, Jeremy Maynard, Saul Hernandez, Samuel Logo, and Chris Horton led by Wendell Morgan, completely refurbished one of the tables. That table was disassembled, and new boards were a better option than the planing and sanding of old boards. New bolts and washers were used to put the table back together. The wrought iron base was hand-sanded which required a lot of small detail work. The students' perseverance was rewarded when Mr Morgan and the Friends group rewarded them with a picnic lunch at the refurbished table.



Students at the completely refurbished picnic table. Photo by Rosla Plant.

Submitted by Rosla Plant, Warm Springs Fish Hatchery, Georgia



This year's event drew a large crowd. Photo by Andy Currie.

Eleventh annual Kids' Fishing Rodeo a tremendous success

On the morning of Saturday, June 7, 2008, a total of 2,000 nine-inch rainbow trout and four large display fish were released in the creek below the Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery for the eleventh annual Kids' Fishing Rodeo. Rainbow trout also were stocked into the adjacent Obey River, giving those people not taking part in the Rodeo the opportunity to share this important resource on Tennessee's Free Fishing Day." Held in celebration of National Fishing and Boating Week, the Rodeo is open to kids aged 15 and under.

This event is co-sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the citizens of Clay County, Tennessee, and presents a unique opportunity for families to spend quality time together and to connect children with nature. The event is covered in local newspapers and on Tennessee Sportsman, an outdoor television show which airs on PBS station WCTE-TV. Volunteers who staffed a face painting station kept busy all morning, and 80 complimentary photos of children with their prizes and fish were distributed. Local businesses and individuals donated prizes, tackle, bait, drinks, advertising, and effort to this year's event, helping to make it a tremendous success. This year's event drew a large crowd. Overall attendance was 225 children and approximately 300 adults. People from as far away as Indiana and Florida made the trip to Celina to get the chance to catch a rainbow trout. More photos in [Photo Album](#).

Submitted by Andy Currie, Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery, Celina Tennessee

Felsenthal Youth Fishing Derby a big success

About 160 people attended the nineteenth annual Youth Fishing Derby on Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge Saturday, June 7, 2008, at Locust Ridge Pond with 80 kids registered. Prizes were awarded as follows: Casting Contest: Age 2-6 years - Darren McLemore of Huttig; Age 7-9 years - Jacob Mauser of Crossett; and Age 10-12 years - Cassidy Musher of Crossett; and Tagged Fish - Jadon Spaulding of Snyder. All children who participated in the fishing derby received fishing poles. We would like to extend special thanks to the local businesses of Crossett, Brookshire's, and the Friends of Felsenthal for their support in making this event a successful one. We would like to send a special thanks to Ruth McDonald, who is retiring June 30, for her dedication in making this event a successful one year after year. Thank You Ruth!



Hailee Lawrence, aged 2, catches her first fish. Photo by Elizabeth Day



Jordyn Clark, aged 2, catches her first fish. Photo by Elizabeth Day

Submitted by Elizabeth Day, Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge, Crossett, Arkansas

Butterfly day at Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge

As part of National Youth Service Day in the South Delta, the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge's Butterfly Garden was weeded, planted, and mulched by some civic-minded youths and adults on Saturday, April 26. The garden, located beside the refuge headquarters on Yazoo Refuge Road, was established in 2006 with a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Nature of Learning Grant obtained by Mississippi's Lower Delta Partnership. In its third and final year of funding through this program, the garden provides a complete habitat for butterflies that also includes interpretive signs for visitors to the garden. The garden is maintained throughout the year by refuge employees and the Greenville, Mississippi Master Gardeners. Girl Scouts and Brownies participated in a West Nile Scavenger Hunt sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Health, learned about refuge wildlife from David Linden, wildlife biologist for the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex, planted annual and perennial plants in the garden, and enjoyed lunch on the grounds. The local Youth Service Day was a partnership of local organizations led by the 4-H Club, Lower Delta Partnership and the Future Farmers of America.



Photo of Amber Barnes, daughter of Office Automation Assistant, Dove Barnes, T R Complex, Hollandale, Mississippi. Photo by Meg Cooper.

Submitted by Meg Cooper, Coordinator, Lower Delta Partnership, Yazoo NWR, Greenville, Mississippi



Boardwalk under construction.
Photo by Craig Sasser.

Anheuser-Busch and the City of Conway renew commitment for Waccamaw's Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area

On June 16, 2008, Bill Graham, administrator for the City of Conway, South Carolina, notified Refuge Manager Craig Sasser that the City Council approved an additional \$6,500 toward completion of the 600-linear-foot Cox Ferry Recreation Area boardwalk. This newly approved funding will be in addition to the \$20,000 that the City donated last year. On June 18, Craig received another call that Anheuser-Busch donated \$7,500 to help complete the boardwalk. In 2007, Anheuser Busch donated an additional \$15,000 towards the boardwalk, all of which comes through their Carolinas- Keeping it Natural Program.

"Both of these donations are very timely because we were running out of funding ,and we still have over 200 linear feet to go before completing the new boardwalk," said Sasser. "Anheuser Busch and the City of Conway are very committed to the refuge and our new recreation area. I can not thank them enough for all they have done."

The new boardwalk will be a main feature of the new three-mile-long nature trail system which will be open to the public this fall. The recreation area also includes two parking areas, two kiosks, a weather shelter, and interpretive panels throughout the trail system. This new public use area has been totally funded through private donations totaling more than \$105,000 in less than three years. Partners in the project include Bass Pro Shops, Centex Homes, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, SEWEE Association, The Conservation Fund, the City of Conway, and Anheuser Busch.

"It has been an incredible journey." said Sasser. "We have been working with some of the greatest partners in conservation, many of whom were introduced to the refuge by The Conservation Fund. Without this level of support a new project like this would have taken many years. My hat is off to all of our partners, and I am most indebted to The Conservation Fund for bringing us all together."

Submitted by Craig Sasser, Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, Georgetown, South Carolina

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery hosts Clean Air Curriculum workshop

On June 11, 2008, The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection's Division for Air Quality and Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery launched a new Clean Air for Kentucky curriculum. The one-day workshop took place at the hatchery and was led by Elizabeth Robb-Schmitz, environmental education specialist with the Division of Air Quality. Along with providing a day of fun and engaging training that included numerous hands-on activities, the event also included a great amount of discussion and dialogue on current environmental topics, such as global warming and how to better connect children with nature. The new curriculum is geared towards students in grades 4 through 12. Due to the positive feedback from the workshop's 12 participants the Division of Air Quality is planning to host the second phase of the program's development at the hatchery in 2009.



Environmental Education/Outreach Intern Kat Lynn, Elizabeth Robb-Schmitz, and another workshop participant investigate how the types of lichen found in an area correspond to quality of the surrounding air. Photo by Amanda Patrick.

Submitted by Amanda Patrick, Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, Jamestown, Kentucky



Mitchell's satyr butterfly. Photo by Barry Hart.

Mitchell's satyr is now in the South

A little brown butterfly, Mitchell's satyr, listed as endangered in 1992 and considered to be only in Michigan and Indiana, is now found in Alabama and Mississippi.

During the summer of 2000, a single Mitchell's satyr was observed in Bibb County, Alabama. Following three years of searching, Barry Hart, with the Alabama Natural Heritage Program at the time, documented 17 colonies, or localized metapopulations, of the butterfly in west central Alabama.

In 2003, Hart and Terry Schiefer, of the Mississippi Entomological Museum, discovered two small colonies in Prentiss and Tishomingo counties in Mississippi. A molecular study, conducted in 2004, confirmed the close relation of the Southern populations to the Michigan and Indiana butterflies; however, it also recommended additional phylogenetic studies.



Barry Hart (right) and Chris Hamm search for Mitchell's satyr in a culvert wetland in Bibb County, Alabama. Photo by Paul Hartfield.

This summer, 2008, Dr. Chris Hamm, Michigan State University, is undertaking a broader effort to compare morphology and

genetics of Mitchell's satyr throughout its range. Hamm and Hart are currently collecting non-lethal, genetic samples from the Mississippi and Alabama butterflies for the comparison.

Mitchell's satyr butterflies inhabit wetlands created by beaver dams, road crossings and small culverts in their Southern locations, and small inland marshes in Michigan and Indiana.

Submitted by Paul Hartfield, Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office, Jackson, Mississippi



Fourth-graders from Dodgertown Elementary School in Vero Beach, drive pvc sediment corers into the benthos and use sieves to reveal the invertebrates that live in it. Photo by Melody Ray-Culp

FWS biologists help Environmental Learning Center connect children with nature

The Environmental Learning Center in Wabasso, Florida, has been in the business of connecting children with nature since opening its doors in 1992. Each spring every first, third, and fourth grader in Indian River County gets the chance to splash and learn in the Indian River Lagoon, an estuary exploding with biodiversity. "Interconnections" was the theme during the four weeks of Lagoon Days, where fourth grade students from the county's 15 elementary schools explore six different hands-on, get-wet-and-dirty, stations, including canoeing, seining, and benthic ecology. This year, biologists from both the Vero Beach and Panama City field offices – Connie Cassler, Patrick Pitts, Jane Tutton, Melody Ray-Culp, and Kristi Yanchis – joined about 70 other volunteers to help children make fun and valuable connections with nature beyond their backyards.



The fourth-graders examine their catch up close. Photo by Melody Ray-Culp.

Submitted by Melody Ray-Culp, Florida Panhandle Coastal Program Coordinator, Panama City Ecological Services Field Office, Florida



Friends President Jim Schmidt helping some kids get rigged up. Photo by Byron Fortier.

Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuge receive grant for youth fishing events

The Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges received a \$3,100 grant from The Payback Foundation, begun by Peyton Manning, to support six special fishing days for area at-risk youth. The first two of the events were held in May, and the other four fishing days were held in mid-June, for about 40 kids each day. They each received and assembled a spin-cast rod-and-reel, learned how to set up the tackle. The youth fished on the banks of the fishing pond on Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge in search of big catfish and other catches. Few of these kids had ever been fishing, and only two claimed to own fishing poles prior to the events. In all, a total of about 240 kids started the summer with all the gear needed for fishing excursions on area refuges and elsewhere. More photos in [Photo Album](#).

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

Hunt for imperiled plant leads to Little Tennessee River discovery

In late May, biologists canoeing the Little Tennessee River discovered two new patches of the federally-protected *Virginia spiraea* plant growing on the river's banks. The search was part of an effort involving the Service to catalog where the rare plant is found along the river, and it also confirmed the plant's continued presence at two spots where it was previously known to occur.



Biologists search for *Virginia spiraea*.
Photo by Land Trust for the Little
Tennessee.

The search brought together a host of organizations, as biologists from the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee, Little Tennessee Watershed Association, Wilderness Society, Western North Carolina Alliance, Friends of the Greenway, USDA Forest Service, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, and two private citizens paddled down the river, eyeing the banks for the flower's tell-tale white flowers. The effort also garnered the support of a local business, as Jerry Anselmo of Great Smoky Mountain Fish Camp & Safari provided boats and shuttle services for the search.

Virginia spiraea was listed as threatened in 1990, and today it is found in seven states across Appalachia from West Virginia to Georgia. The plant is typically found along stream banks where it is able to take advantage of the stream-bank scouring that comes with periodic flooding.

Submitted by Gary Peeples, Asheville, North Carolina Ecological Services Field Office

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery featured on Kentucky Afield TV series

Biotech Chris Murphy isn't normally as comfortable in front of a camera as he is behind the wheel of a stocking truck. But, he's been at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery for 12 years, and has a thing or two to share about trout stocking in Kentucky.

In fact, every trout stocked into public waters in that state has been through Murphy's net.

Murphy helped to demonstrate the hatchery's efforts to keep Kentucky streams filled with healthy trout on a recent episode of Kentucky Afield, the country's longest-running outdoors television series.

Also featured was Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery volunteer Ralph Parrish, along with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and other conservation partners and volunteers.

To view "Backpack Trout Stocking in Kentucky" on YouTube, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRAQ3KQU6XI>

Submitted by Judy Toppins, Fisheries, Atlanta, Georgia



Nicole with "Hook" the Columbus Catfish mascot. FWS Photo.

Warm Springs Fish Technology Center and baseball

The Warm Spring Fish Technology Center (WSFTC) participated in a conservation day camp for approximately 1,500 children at the home field of the Columbus Catfish. The Columbus Catfish are a single A baseball team affiliated with the Tampa Bay Rays. WSFTC staff set up a display table with brochures about fishing and about endangered species. Our staff showed the children the fish and mussel species of the Chattahoochee River which flows through Columbus, Georgia. Children enjoyed identifying relic mussel shells from pictures on the poster of Freshwater Mussels of the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Basin and handling jars of several preserved darter species from the Coosa River Basin. Many of the children also got fish tattoos for answering questions about mussels and fish.

Submitted by Bill Bouthillier and Nicole Morris, Warm Springs Fish Technology Center, Georgia



Fish Biologist Nicole Morris talking to children about fish and freshwater mussels. FWS Photo.



Friends Group members Geri Harper, left, and Marilyn Parrott, right, prepare hot dogs in the Educational Center kitchen. Photo by Crystal Thomas.

Senior citizens enjoy day of trout fishing at Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery

Approximately 200 people aged 55 and older gathered at Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery for the free annual Seniors Fishing Rodeo on Friday, June 13. Participants spent the day fishing Rock Creek for the 3,800 hatchery stocked rainbow trout. Several anglers took home fish weighing well over three pounds. Participants received t-shirts, prizes, and a free lunch served by Trout Unlimited and Friends of the Hatchery.

Submitted by Crystal Thomas, Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, Suches, Georgia



Participant with her catch of the day. Photo by Kelly Taylor.

Friends Group --

Signs get a face lift!



The Friends of Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery by a refinished hatchery sign. Photo by Rosla Plant.

Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery signs were recently refinished by Creative Signs of Thomaston with monies secured by the Friends of Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. Friends members have been involved in many other projects at the hatchery, some of which include the Kids Fish for Fun annual event on June 7, and a Big Brother Big Sister Atlanta Chapter event held April 12. The Friends Group also purchased materials and planted the carnivorous plant display, brought signs for the one-mile nature trail, and purchased purple martin rack systems, blue bird boxes, and wood duck box shields. In addition, The Friends of Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery helps hatchery staff conduct classes on the importance of recycling and to achieve environmental management goals for recycling.

Submitted by Rosla Plant, Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery, Georgia

Hats Off --



Bernie Petersen receives Felsenthal's Important Bird Area designation. Photo by Elizabeth Day.

Felsenthal receives Important Bird Area designation from Audubon Arkansas

On June 17, 2008, Bernie Petersen, refuge manager of Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge, accepted the global recognition award from Audubon Arkansas. Felsenthal earned the award through its efforts to strengthen bird populations by identifying, monitoring and protecting the most significant and endangered bird habitats in the state. Felsenthal is one of the 59 excellent birding locations in Arkansas and one of the eight National Wildlife Refuges in Arkansas. The refuge also met the requirements for an Important Bird Area designation by harboring a significant number of birds of conservation concern, or birds that are vulnerable because they congregate in large numbers at certain times of the year.

Submitted by Bernie Petersen, Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge, Crossett, Arkansas

Hats Off to Service staff for celebrating Endangered Species Day across the Southeast!

Endangered Species Day has been officially recognized in May since 2006 as a day to learn about endangered species, celebrate successes in their recovery, and gain a greater appreciation for what it takes to conserve a species and protect its habitat. Southeast Region recovery biologists on May 16, decided to make this a day of celebration and fun.

A big thank you and congratulations are extended to those who stepped up and joined in. Among the many participants were Debbie Fuller, Karen Soileau, Robert Greco, Jim Boggs, Chris Davidson, Becky Hays, Mark Sattleberg, Terri Jacobsen, Fran Phillips, Connie Dickard, Marion Sansing, Cary Norquist, Kurt Snyder (for our wonderful graphic), Mary Jennings, Marelisa Rivera, Carlos Pacheco, Edwin Muniz, Susan Silander, Jorge Saliva, Claudia Lombard, Carlos Diaz, Gisella Burgos, Oscar Diaz, Beverly Yoshioka, John Fridell, Gary Peeples, Brian Cole, Mike Floyd, Lee Andrews, Wendy Stanton, Howard Phillips, Buddy Fazio, Will Waddell, Lorna Patrick, Patty Kelly, Janet Mizzi, Vivian Negron-Ortiz, Jerry Ziewitz, Hildreth Cooper, Karen Herrington, Mary Mittiga, Laura Jenkins, Jacquelyn Zelko, Teresa Ward, Emily Bizwell, Elaine Bishop, Nikki Lamp, Pete Pattavina, Acquanetta Reese, Cindy Bohn, Erin Rivenbark, Rick Gooch, Noreen Walsh, Jennifer Koches, Melissa Bimbi, Tim Hall, Elsie Davis, and Debbie Young,...



Connie Dickard and Fran Phillips, both of the Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office in Jackson, talk about the Louisiana black bear. Photo by Terri Jacobsen.

From reports that came in, you made this day memorable for everyone you reached with the message of recovery, You also achieved collaborative recovery actions during the celebration. Even more important, this was a day where you had fun and were able to recharge the passion you have to continue doing the critical recovery work that is needed for our nation's endangered and threatened species. Thank you everyone for holding the Service's first inaugural celebration of Endangered Species Day and reaching a minimum of 12,000 to 30,000 people.

For information about the events in each state, please see <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/recovery.htm> and click on Happenings in Southeast Region.

Submitted by Kelly Bibb, Ecological Services, Atlanta, Georgia

Photo Album --

Eleventh annual Kids' Fishing Rodeo a tremendous success -- more photos -- photos by Andy Currie



The Kids' Fishing Rodeo presents an opportunity to connect children With nature. Photo by Andy Currie.



The Kids' Fishing Rodeo features face painting.



Local businesses donate prizes such as a \$50 savings bond.

Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuge receive grant for youth fishing events -- more photos



Proud wearers of the Payback Foundation fishing event t-shirts. Photo by Byron Fortier.



A boy and a girl enjoy fishing. Photo by Diane Barth.



A connection with nature. Photo by Byron Fortier.



A catch at Payback Fishing Days. Photo by Byron Fortier.

Wildfires: How the Service prepares for them on National Wildlife Refuges
Photos of the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge - Evans Road wildfire in North Carolina



Tractor plow putting in a plow line adjacent to the Evans Road Fire. FWS photo taken June 11.



Smoke seeping from the ground is evidence of fire beneath the ground. While there are areas within the perimeter of the fire that have stopped smoking, there are many areas that have not. Groundfire continues to be the primary focus of fire suppression efforts. Photo by Bonnie Strawser.



A U.S. Forest Service-contracted Heavy Air Tanker was brought in to assist firefighters. This tanker can deliver 3,000 gallons of fire retardant in one drop. Photo by North Carolina Forest Service's Chris Carlson on June 4.



North side of Evans Road Fire, where agricultural fields stopped the forward spread of the fire. Photo by Vince Carver.



Pumping station on north end of Evans Road is using water from Lake Phelps to suppress groundfire. Photo by Vince Carver.



Service Fire Ecologist Sue Wilder is 5 feet tall and is shown standing in a hole resulting from groundfire. Note the pre-wildfire soil surface level above her head. Photo by Vince Carver.



Fire behind the trees. Photo taken June 3, by Vince Carver.

Visitor Services --

Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex holds first annual youth fishing event



Young anglers wet their lines in the fishing pond at Grand Cote NWR. Photo by Mindy Gautreaux.

On May 17, The Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex held its first youth fishing event the Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge. Thirty-six children, aged four through twelve years, caught 99 bream and 80 catfish from the headquarters fishing pond, which is only open to fishing during special events. Each child was allowed to catch up to twenty bream and five catfish. Seven children caught their limit of catfish, which on average weighed four pounds. The largest catfish weighed almost eight pounds. Door prizes were given out throughout the day, breakfast and lunch were provided, and there were casting games and exhibits. Several local organizations contributed their time and donations to help make this event successful.



Luke Franks is happy with his catch.
Photo by Mindy Gautreaux.



Amanda Reynolds, of Mansura, LA,
is excited about her bream. Photo
by Mindy Gautreaux.



P.J. Bernard with his prize catfish.
Photo by Mindy Gautreaux.

Submitted by Mindy Gautreaux, Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Marksville, Louisiana

Wage Grade Profile --

Willis J. Smith: Indispensable at Dale Hollow NFH



Willis Smith feeds the fish. Photo by Andy Currie.

Willis Smith, maintenance worker, is always willing to take time out of his busy days to make visitors feel welcome. Few people leave the Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery without stopping to talk to him.

Willis has worked at the hatchery for 15 years and is responsible for most of the maintenance, as well as trout production responsibilities. His skills at carpentry, welding, masonry, plumbing, electrical work, and engine repair make him a valuable asset. Before joining the Service, Willis served in Vietnam, and then worked as a heavy equipment operator, postal carrier, construction worker, and truck driver. Fortunately, Willis decided to add "hatchery worker" to his list of accomplishments.

Willis' hobbies include home improvement projects, gardening, and reading. He lives in Celina, Tennessee, with his wife Genie. He has three children and four grandchildren.



Willis Smith builds a screen. Photo by Sheila Kirk.

Submitted by Sheila Kirk, formerly at Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery, Celina, Tennessee, now at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, Jamestown Kentucky

[◆ Southeast Region's Home](#) [◆ Privacy](#) [◆ FOIA](#) [◆ Disclaimer](#) [◆ Contact Us](#) [◆ Search](#) [◆ Regions](#) [◆ Archived SE Currents](#) [◆](#)