

*Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1945 as an important resting and feeding area for wintering waterfowl and other migratory birds. Its 51,358 acres of water, forests, farmland, wetlands and grasslands are home for over 300 species of birds and a wide variety of other wildlife. The refuge's three units, the Duck River, Big Sandy, and Bussettown are located on and around Kentucky Lake in northwest Tennessee.*

photo: Jean Owens



This blue goose, designed by J. N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

causing widespread devastation to communities, farms, and families. The following year, in 1938, the newly formed Tennessee Valley Authority started construction on Kentucky Dam. When the dam was completed in 1944, Kentucky Lake was born, and the following year, in 1945, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge was established by President Harry S. Truman on the newly flooded lands and areas adjacent to the river.



photo: Kimi Fitzhugh

**Yours to enjoy...**

Recreational opportunities include: hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, canoe/kayaking, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation. To enhance your visit, the refuge provides several observation decks/blinds, three hiking trails, wildlife drive, and many boat ramps and access points into refuge waters.

**Refuge Visitor/Education Center**

Our visitor center offers an exhibit hall, auditorium, environmental classroom and nature bookstore. It is open Monday-Saturday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (except

The refuge's primary management is to provide food and protection for waterfowl, however its diversity of habitats also supports breeding, wintering and migration habitat for 318 bird species, and habitat for 51 mammals, 89 reptiles and amphibians and 144 species of fish.

**In Years Past**

In 1937 a flood occurred in the Tennessee and Ohio River Valleys,



photo: Melodie Cunningham

for Federal holidays) and entry is free. To add to your experience, two seasonally open hiking trails and a wildlife observation deck are located near the center. The refuge hosts a series of free educational events at the center called the "Refuge Discovery Series". For a list of this year's events please go to [www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/tennesseennwr](http://www.facebook.com/tennesseennwr). Environmental Education is emphasized and teachers/groups are encouraged to utilize this free facility for your next field trip. For special groups, field trips or programs please contact the Refuge Office.



photo: Jean Owens

**Respect Wildlife... Remember you are in their home.**

At the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge we encourage visitors to respectfully enjoy wildlife at a safe distance. However, occasionally some

visitors go to extra lengths to enhance their experience without regard to the health and safety of wildlife. This can result in the disturbance or harassment of wildlife. Disturbance or harassment of wildlife is defined as any activity that affects or changes the natural behavior of wildlife, which can be detrimental to the animal's health, safety or productivity.



photo: Richard Graves

**Types of activities that can cause disturbance or harassment can include:**

- Getting too close to or chasing wildlife
- Using flash photography in close proximity to wildlife
- Honking vehicle horns or other loud noise to elicit a flush
- Feeding wildlife
- Purposefully flushing up birds or wildlife
- Throwing objects at wildlife



**Sanctuary Areas Are Closed to All Public Entry – November 15 through March 15**

Not all, but key portions of the refuge are closed for Sanctuary from November 15th through March 15th. These areas of

the refuge include roads, lands and waters that are closed to lessen disturbance to eagles, waterfowl and other water birds. Providing sanctuary areas for resting, feeding, recovery and pair bonding waterfowl is the most important management activity of the refuge. When

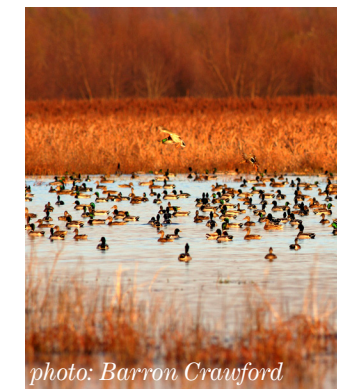


photo: Barron Crawford

visiting the refuge, please take notice of area seasonally closed signs or see the map for locations of sanctuary areas.

Stay Connected #tennesseennwr  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee)  
<http://www.friendstnwr.org>  
 @Tennesseeenwr – official  
 @TNrefuge - Friends of the refuge

**Fishing**

Kentucky Lake is known for some of the best fishing opportunities, especially for crappie, bass, bluegill and catfish. About half of the refuge consists of Kentucky Lake or large impoundments and most of the refuge's waters are open to fishing and boating year round. However, several bays and impoundments close seasonally from November 15 through March 15 to provide sanctuary areas for the waterfowl. Please refer to the map for those seasonally closed areas or Refuge Fishing Regulations for more information.



photo: Hal Pope

**Hunting**

Hunting is one of the tools used to manage wildlife populations on the Refuge. Hunting is permitted for deer, squirrel, raccoon, wild turkey and resident Canada goose. A refuge Annual Hunting Permit at a cost of \$15.00 is required for hunting. Please see Refuge Hunting Regulations for more information.



photo: Joan Howe

**Hiking** (All trails closed during special fall gun hunt weekends)

- **Britton Ford Hiking Trail** – located ¾ mile from refuge Visitor Center. Closed seasonally from Nov. 15-Mar. 15 and several fall deer hunt weekends. This 2.5 mile moderate loop trail offers a woodland setting with lake overlooks, interpretive signs and outdoor classroom.

- **Nature Discovery Trail** – located adjacent to refuge Visitor Center. Closed seasonally from Nov. 15-Mar. 15 and several fall deer hunt weekends. This half mile trail offers a woodland trail near the shoreline. Animal Olympic stations are located along the trail teaching children about local wildlife while challenging them to exercise.

- **Chickasaw National Recreation Trail** – located on the Big Sandy Peninsula north of the town of Big Sandy. This 1.1 mile easy hiking loop trail is open year round with interpretive signs offering a trail that winds through a historic homestead and gristmill site.



photo: Joan Howe

**Wildlife Observation and Photography**

- **V.L. Childs Observation Deck** – located 1.5 miles from the Visitor Center. Open year round with spotting scopes and interpretive signs.

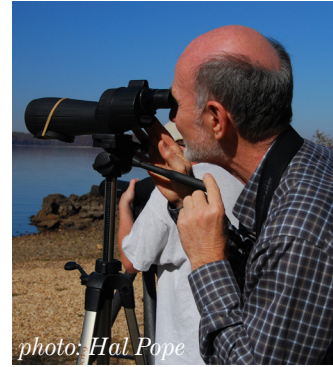


photo: Hal Pope

- **Bennett's Creek Observation Deck** – located on Big Sandy Peninsula north of the town of Big Sandy. Open year round with spotting scope. A good location to view bald eagles in the winter.

- **Duck River Bottoms Overlook** – Off Birdsong Road or highway 191. Open year round providing an excellent view overlooking the Tennessee River and Duck River Bottoms. Deck located at end of ¼ mile hiking trail.

- **Pintail Point Observation Blind** – In Duck River Bottoms off Haul Road. Open year round providing views of waterfowl in the winter and many other birds in other seasons. Blind located at end of short 150 yard trail.

- **Blue Goose Boulevard Interpretive Drive** – In Duck River Bottoms off Refuge Lane. Closed from November 15 through March 15 allows visitors to view wildlife with interpretive signs explaining the habitat types in the bottoms and refuge management practices.

**When Visiting the Refuge, These Activities Are Not Allowed:**

- Camping
- Open Fires
- ATV's or unlicensed vehicle
- Removal of objects, plants or collecting antiquity
- Unleashed Pets
- Mooring boats overnight
- Using artificial light to observe wildlife
- Entering seasonally closed areas
- Carrying, possessing or discharging fireworks  
Firearms permitted according to state law

- Horseback riding on hiking trails or roads closed to vehicles
- Bicycling on hiking trails, or any other off road use
- Drones



photo: Clayton Ferrell

Tennessee  
National Wildlife Refuge  
1371 Wildlife Drive  
Springville, TN 38256  
(731) 642 2091

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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<http://www.fws.gov>

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Tennessee  
National Wildlife  
Refuge

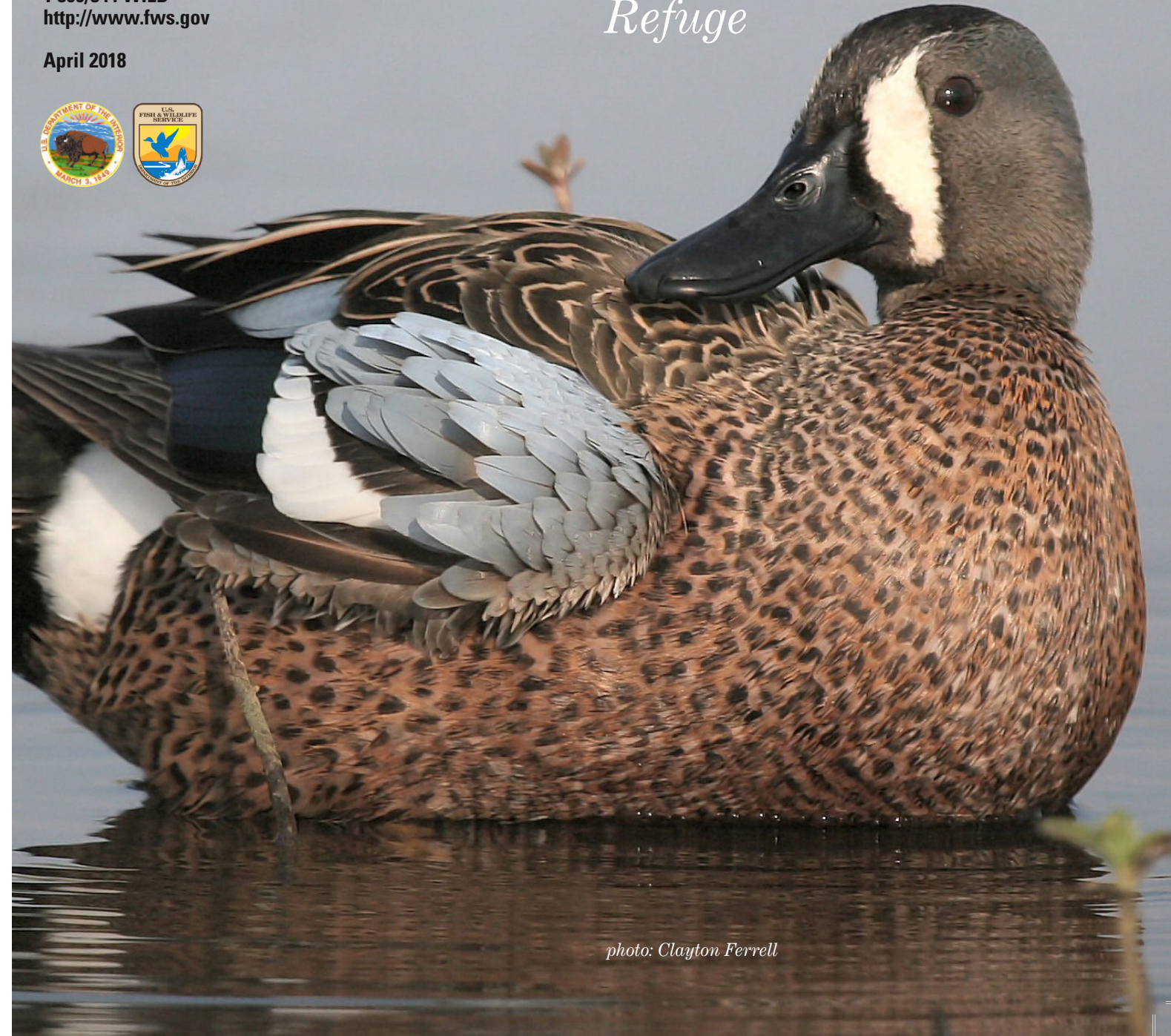
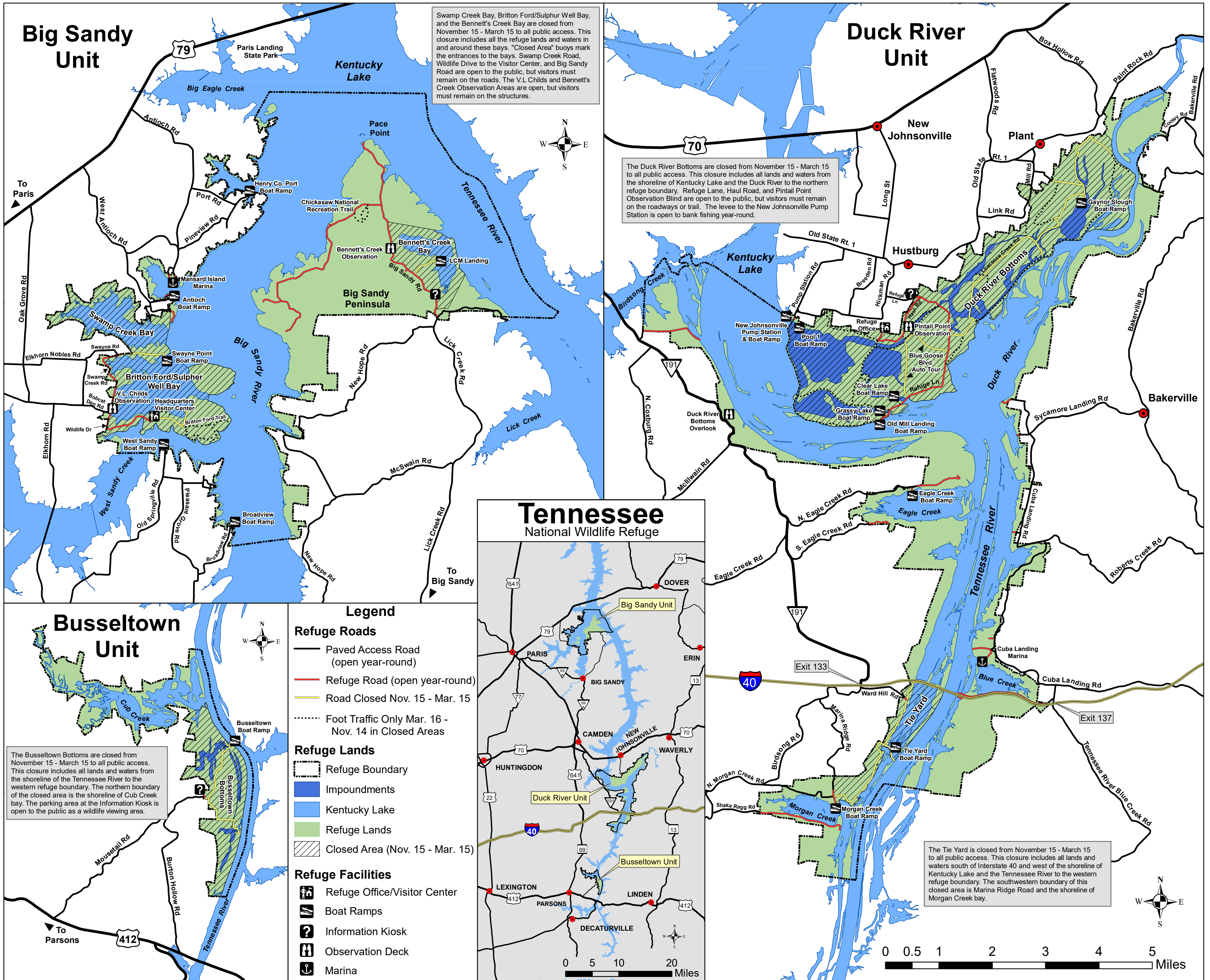


photo: Clayton Ferrell

# Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge



The refuge is open daily ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset with the exception of permitted hunting seasons.  
 Visitor Center/Headquarters, Free Entry  
 Monday - Saturday 8:00-4:00 pm • 1371 Wildlife Drive • Springville, TN 38256 • (731) 642 2091