



"The Eagle's Eye"

Newsletter of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Edited by Lori Nicholson & Robin Will

Spring on the Refuge!

On a cold morning in late February, botany Professor *emeritus* Loran Anderson heads out onto the refuge in search of a rare orchid, *Corallorhiza wisteriana*. On the seat in the truck is a four-page list of the 1300 species he has documented on the refuge, the most comprehensive record of refuge plants to date. Loran is on this quest, in part because I asked him which wildflowers might be in bloom in the next month or two, but mostly because that's what he loves to do. Loran Anderson's passion for plants has ruled most of his life. And the best part is, he generously shares this love.

It is early for this coral-colored plant to be in bloom. The morning sun seeps through the sparse winter leaf-cover on the trees and filters at just the right angle. The light should help locate this orchid, named for its elaborate root structure as well as its color. We squish along in the palm and pine flatwoods, saturated with several days of rain. Here and there, the water finds its lowest point and courses off into the woods in a small but aggressive stream in search of the bay. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack, but the quest is the journey in and of itself. A plant, no more than an inch high, catches his eye. It is the rare *Listera australis*. Treasures abound at this refuge.

Given the cold winter, it is not surprising that we did not find more than a brave violet or two in bloom. But the promise will be kept: join Dr. Loran Anderson for a wildflower walk when things are really popping. April 24th is the date – see the calendar for details. Meanwhile, keep your eyes open for roadside flowers such as Blue-eyed Grass and Grass Pink, white Bonnets, Butterworts and Blueberries. Jasmine, Red Buckeye and yellow St. John's Wort will not be far behind. Watch for the Lupines in both pink and blue, and of course, everyone's favorite, the sweet Violet. See you on the 24th! Written by refuge volunteer Christine Barnes.

SPRING 2010

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

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St. Marks NWR
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<http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks>

Our Land Acquisition Plan is in the final stages of approval. We appreciate all of your support so far. We will make an announcement once it is approved. This is the time that our supporters can begin letting their representatives know that they want land acquisition to occur here at St. Marks.

We received a good budget for this Fiscal Year. Unfortunately, we have been told that the budget will remain flat or decrease for 2011-2013. A flat budget really results in a decrease of available funds due to cost of living raises.

Good bye old friend! The cabin will be torn down during the month of April. We tried hard to sell it,

but the cost of moving it exceeded the value of the building. In addition, we discovered asbestos in the roof. Therefore, we could not sell the building. The good news is that construction on our 3,200 square foot building should begin in June. We are looking forward to having more room. This building will have a classroom on one end and a meeting room on the other end.

The saltwater boat ramp will also be replaced this summer. We were given ARRA (Stimulus) funds to build a new ramp.

Enjoy your spring on St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Tots and Families Connect to Nature

This year with Ranger Heather Bevis supervision the refuge has been able to connect our younger members of the community. The Families in Nature program took place fourth Saturday of each month allowing families to partici-

pate in scavenger hunts, and hands on activities. A relatively new program that took place in March and April for the parents with tots in strollers was the Tots on Trails. Parents and children participated in a ranger led walk on one of the refuge's trails. This offered families a great chance to introduce their families to the beauty of nature. Check the website later this summer for plans for the fall.



Visitor Information

Visitor Center- The Refuge visitor center and office is located on County Rd 59, 3 miles south of U. S. Hwy 98 at Newport. Visit the displays describing refuge wildlife and habitats and the refuge association bookstore.

Entrance Fees- Federal entrance fee passes apply (America the Beautiful, Senior, Access) or daily passes can be purchased for \$5 per car. Annual passes include the St. Marks NWR Specific Pass and the current Federal Duck Stamp.

Hours- The Refuge is open daylight hours all year and the Visitor Center is open from 8 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday; and 10 am till 5 pm weekends. Closed on Federal holidays.

Lighthouse Drive- For casual observation, the Lighthouse Road provides many excellent stopping points along the 7-mile stretch of road from the Visitor Center to the St Marks Lighthouse on Apalachee Bay. Please observe the posted speed limit.

Restrooms - Located at the Refuge Visitor Center, Tower Pond/Mounds Trail and Otter Lake Recreation Area.

Picnic Facilities- Located next to Tower Pond Trail and Otter Lake.

Hiking- The fall, winter and early spring are the best times. Foot- and bicycle-traffic are allowed on trails. Guides are available at the toll booth, visitor center and information kiosks.

Fishing- Freshwater and saltwater fishing are available in certain areas of the refuge year round. Contact Visitor Center for restrictions. Boat launching is permitted during daylight hours at the Lighthouse saltwater launching ramp.

Hunting - Hunting is permitted for resident game species in designated areas fall - spring. Contact the Refuge after June 1 for upcoming year's applications and permit information, **or visit www.fws.gov/saintmarks**

National Wildlife Refuges are charged with protecting endangered and threatened species. Management of the refuge's endangered species population and the water and land which make up their habitats is the work that keeps Joe Reinman and Mike Keys at full throttle daily. The following is an update and a peek into the plans for the spring for the refuge responsibilities they bear.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker:

Once abundant throughout the south, less than 1% of this bird's original old pine forest range still exists. This bird has a complex social system: adult birds live in groups of 2-9 birds, but only one breeding pair. Last fall, twenty-two groups lived on the refuge.

A translocation project which permits transferring adult birds from the Ochlochnee State Park to St. Marks NWR, is helping to reintroduce the Red-cockaded Woodpecker to this area. Mike Keys brought in 10 birds in the fall, five males and five females. In anticipation of a successful breeding season in April, Mike installed additional artificial nesting cavities for the birds, accelerating a nesting process that can take up to three years if the woodpeckers must create their own. This spring, the refuge may support as many as twenty-seven groups.

Refuge fire crew and maintenance staffs are integral and essential partners in maintaining the refuge habitats. We salute the land management that is essential to this

project: restoration of the Longleaf Pine forests that were destroyed years ago, including prescribed burning and annual seed plantings in specified areas.

Frosted Flatwoods Salamander:

"Hope they can swim!" quips Mike Keys in reference to the reptile's saturated habitat. An October rain brings opportunities to see this endangered salamander in breeding season. Salamanders and frogs are among the best indicators of environmental health. Air, water and soil must remain viable for them to survive, as all are critical in the stages of their lives. Less than 2% of the Frosted Flatwoods Salamander's habitat remains. Their usual patterns are surely disturbed from all the rain: they need margins as well as wet depressions, pine forests and little understory. As with the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, managed burns are essential. Awareness of this amphibian's needs helps us all to make careful decisions to avoid disturbing its habitat.

Gopher Tortoise: On a recent walk with Mike, we learn to look for the tell-tale raised sand heap at the opening of an active burrow. This reptile spends most of its life under ground, and much of its life remains a mystery. The biologist explains to us that the tortoise appears to continue its decline. Refuge staff are developing strategies to survey the tortoise, its habits and habitat. Information gathered from systematic surveys can lead to better man-

agement practices to benefit the Gopher Tortoise. Mike Keys carefully places a tiny wand-camera two feet into the jet-black burrow, and we can see the tortoise on the above-ground screen. Seeing the animal makes us more concerned, more aware of what we need to do to help its recovery.

Water management is an essential piece in maintaining a habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds alike. A trip with biologist Joe Reinman for a semi-monthly waterfowl census takes us to the far reaches of the refuge pools. Joe counts the birds with a systematic process that yields unexpected results: 24,000 American Coots this year, a record, and a remarkable variety of ducks and shorebirds. Joe studies the water management systems at each pool, and sometimes chooses to release water from one, or add to another. It is a complex responsibility, learned from years of trial and error and research. The birds on the refuge appear to be thriving.

In the fall, many volunteers helped harvest Wiregrass seed. Spring plans to seed new locations with the collected harvest are underway, an important step in restoring compromised refuge land to its natural habitat.





Osprey Photo taken by Ranger Barney Parker

the other hand, the mullet was also dark on the back and light on the bottom for a different reason than the osprey. His black top surface enabled him to blend in with the dark bottom of the pond. But this time that camouflage evidently did not work out for the mullet. He might have been swimming over some light colored sand at that moment and his buddies may have been huddled over darker territory in the pond. Mullet have other predators than the osprey. These predators look up from the bot-

Well, it looks like digital photography classes will be meeting outdoors for a few months. This is because the refuge is building a new education facility to replace the cabin. The classes will still meet on the first Saturday of every month at 9:00 in the morning. Remember, everyone is invited, including children. (I even had a dog attend one of my classes and he paid very close attention, but I'm not sure what he learned).

One of the topics I like to discuss in photography class is the phenomenon of counter shading as an adaptive mechanism in animals. One time a while back, I was photo-

graphing an osprey at a distance. I did not notice the fish in his talons as I took the picture and was surprised to see the end result (pictured left). As I examined the picture, a little lesson in natural history came to mind. Both the predator and prey exhibited counter shading as a camouflage mechanism. The osprey was colored dark on the top and white on the bottom so that when the mullet looked up through the surface of the water, it was difficult to see the osprey against the bright sunlit sky. This enabled the osprey to dive on him and catch him in his talons. On

tom of the pond at a light colored surface. The white belly on the mullet affords him camouflage from predators like the alligator that lies at the bottom of the pond, waiting for the fish to swim over him. Two more predators on the mullet are Ranger David Moody and volunteer John Whitton with their mullet nets; and neither one of them is counter shaded! With those words, I will say, "don't believe everything I say, just what makes sense to you."

This spring is shaping up to be a very busy one. We have education programs scheduled almost every day through the middle of May. We are also busy making plans and preparing for the removal of everything from the cabin in preparation for the new Environmental Education building that will be started in June of this year. I know a lot of people

will be sad to see the cabin go, but rest assured we will keep mementos of it to reside in our new facility that will be sure to please.

Coins for Cranes winners Buck Lake Elementary and Conley Elementary got a special visit from Operation Migration Pilot Brooke Pennypacker who helped present them with their winning certificates.

At Buck Lake we got to meet with the 3rd and 4th grade classes who were involved in raising the money for the crane camera.

It was certainly a challenge for photographer Craig Kittendorf to get all 700+ students from Conley in the photo. We are proud of the efforts of all those who participated in this special undertaking. Great job everyone.



Buck Lake 3rd grade
1st Place Coins for Cranes winner.



Buck Lake 3rd grade Teachers accept Coins for Cranes
Winning Certificate from Ranger Nicholson and OM
Pilot Brooke Pennypacker



Conley Elementary Receives 2nd Place Coins for Cranes Certificate from Operation Migration Pilot
Brooke Pennypacker and Ranger Nicholson

Because of all the changes and planning this summer, EE programs will only be offered on Fridays, so make sure and book early.

Calendar of Events Spring 2010

Please call 850-925-6121 for Reservations & Updated Information

Sat. March 27 - Families in Nature Bring your family any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to learn about Fantastic Flowers. Meet at the front deck of the education cabin.

Saturday April 3- Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at 11:30 at the Giles Thompson House.

Saturday April 3 - Photo Class with Ranger Barney Parker. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*

Thursday April 8 - Tots on Trails 11:00 a.m. meet at the Visitor Center to bring your little one out and connect to nature. *Participants must register in advance.*

Sunday April 11 - Port Leon Tour with Ranger Andy Edel 3:00 p.m. until sunset. Meet at the Visitor Center. *Must register.*

Saturday March 17 - Photo Club meeting 9 am until finished. Contact President Tom Darragh for more information at thomasd@talstar.com

Saturday April 24 - Families in Nature. Bring your family any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to celebrate the Earth Day.

Saturday April 24 - Lighthouse Day Part I 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. See page 8 for more information.

Saturday April 24 - Wildflower Walk with Dr. Loran Anderson.

Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 am. *Registration required.*

Sunday April 25 - Lighthouse Day Part II 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. See page 8 for more information.

Saturday May 1 - Photo Class with Ranger Barney Parker. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*

Saturday May 8 - Free Kids Fishing Clinic at Wooley Park in Panacea from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Ages 4-15. First 500 participants to go through the stations receive a free rod and reel and tackle box courtesy of Fish Florida. Come learn the basics of fishing and enjoy a hot dog lunch.

Saturday May 15 - Photo Club meeting 9 am until finished. Contact President Tom Darragh for more information at thomasd@talstar.com

Saturday May 23 - Wildflower Walk with Dr. Loran Anderson Meet at the Visitor Center at 9 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*

Saturday June 5 - Photo Class with Ranger Barney Parker. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*

Saturday June 19 - Photo Club meeting 9 am until finished. Contact President Tom Darragh for more information at thomasd@talstar.com

Hints for Enjoying Your Visit

Take Your Binoculars

Binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras will help you get a close-up view of wildlife without disturbing them. Look for wildlife up in the trees and the sky as well as in the roadside pools.

Bring Your Field Guides

Guide books will assist you in identifying the more common north Florida native flora and fauna.

Start early and stay late

Mammals and birds are more active during the early morning hours and late afternoon.

Observe carefully

Be aware of potential dangers, snakes, poison ivy, etc. Observe common-sense rules with bears and alligators, don't get too close. Remember feeding alligators as well as all wildlife is prohibited.

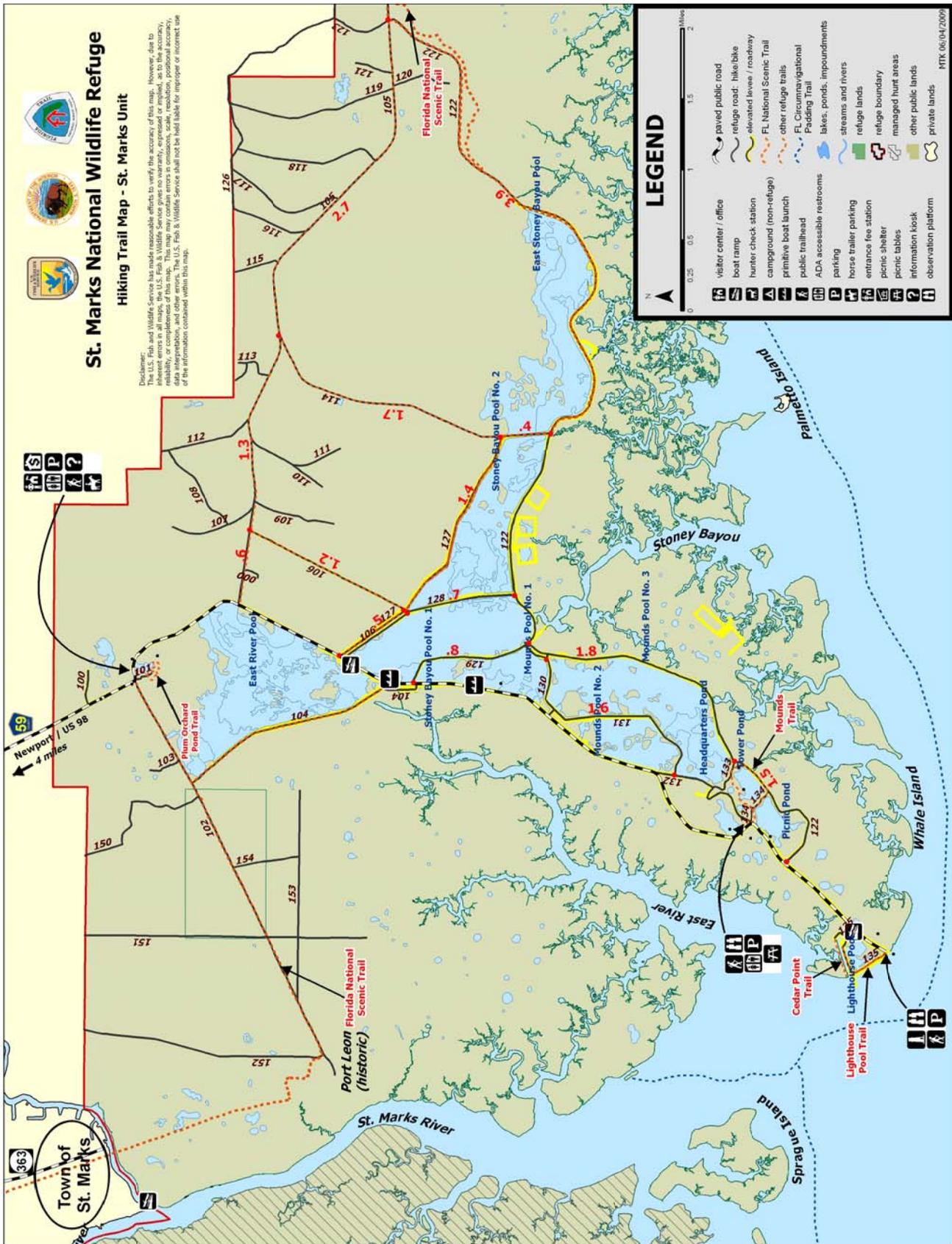
Dress appropriately

Insect repellent, sunscreen, proper hiking shoes and socks. Wear weather appropriate clothing.

Food

Other than chocolate bars, food is not for sale at the refuge, make sure to bring snacks or plan to visit nearby restaurants.

St. Marks Map with Trail Numbers



Recently Royce Phillips, volunteer, and Buddy Aguilera, Equipment Operator, revamped the signs in the Scott's Fire Study Plots area. Scott's Fire Study Plots are four 2-acre plots, located behind the visitor center, named after a retired fire technician, Doug Scott. Doug Scott put in the Fire Study Plots eight years ago to show the different responses by the plants in similar areas but burned at different times of the year. The Fire Study

Plots are burned at different times during the year on a 2-year frequency. Royce routed the rewording of signs so the visitors will know that the trail is a spur trail to the Fire Study Plots. He then made signs that describe when prescribed fire is used on each plot, (see below and left).



When you have an opportunity, please visit Scott's Fire Study Plots. They are located behind the Visitor



Kiosk that describes fire and how it shapes the landscape that we see on the refuge erected by Buddy Aguilera

Center on a spur trail off of the Plum Orchard Pond Trail.

Cultural Resources Update

Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge **By Robin Will**

Celebrate Florida Lighthouse Day by exploring Florida's Forgotten Coast in search of history and maritime lore, Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25 from 10 am – 5 pm. The St. Marks Lighthouse is just one of four famous lighthouses that dot the coastline across the Big Bend that will be participating in the Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge. The other Lighthouses include Cape San Blas, Cape St. George, and Crooked River Lighthouse.

Participants must pay \$10 per ticket or \$25 per family to participate in

the Challenge, with tickets available at any of the lighthouses the day of the event. Participants will receive a souvenir at each Lighthouse and a special souvenir for climbing or visiting all four Lighthouses. The Forgotten Coast lighthouses are the only lighthouses participating in this special challenge for Florida Lighthouse Day.

When lighthouse enthusiasts converge in northwest Florida for this very first Challenge, a very special participant will be climbing with them. Megan Clementi, Miss Florida USA 2010, will participate in the Challenge as part of her "Climb for the Cure" to promote support for the Susan G.

Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. During her reign, Megan plans to visit the 30 remaining Florida lighthouses, where she will also promote the "Visit Our Lights" specialty license plate, sponsored by the Florida Lighthouse Association to raise funds for lighthouse preservation. Megan will be at the St. Marks Lighthouse from 11:30 am to 1:00pm Saturday to kick-off the challenge.

Refuge Ranger and Lighthouse Historian Andy Edel will be dressed as our Lighthouse Keeper and other staff will be dressed in period uniform and available to answer questions here at St. Marks. Continued on pg. 9.

Springtime Freshwater Fishing at St. Marks NWR

As the amount of daylight increases by minutes each day, so does the water temperature. By the end of March, water temperatures are reaching 70 degrees and a new crop of insects is beginning their life cycle. As food becomes more abundant, the fish become more active and feed aggressively.

Rules and Regulations:

Refuge rules follow state regulations and freshwater fishing license is required. Cast netting is not allowed in non-tidally influenced pools. **March 15-May 15** Otter Lake area roads open to fishing access. **March 15-Oct 15** Impoundments (St. Marks Unit) open to boats, hand launch only, trolling motors only. Otter Lake area is open year round for boats with up to 10 hp outboard motors.

When to Fish: Early morning and late evening (sunrise and sunset) are major activity times. Moon phases such as new and full moon are also major activity times. If you can put the two times together, success should be yours. (April 12-14, 26-28 weather permitting, are top notch days this spring.)

Where to Fish: Any body of water that does not lose all of its water in a dry period contains some quantities of fish. The St. Marks Refuge has numerous ponds, sinkholes, impoundments, creeks, and lakes. Impoundments and Lakes are your best bet for the larger Panfish and Bass. The most popular target species in the impoundments (Stoney Bayou 2, East River, and Mounds Pools) are Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Shellcracker, and Speckled Perch. Many shallow lakes in the Panacea Unit

contain Largemouth Bass, Yellow (Butter) Catfish, and panfish.

Restocking Efforts: Refuge biologists realize that previous droughts and saltwater intrusion have negatively impacted freshwater fish species. In an effort to counteract these impacts, the following pools have been restocked with Bluegill and Shellcracker. *East River Pool, Stoney Bayou 2, and Mounds 1*

What Bait and Gear

Artificial-Bass: Rubber Worms (bright colors), and Weedless Spinners, are both good. **Panfish:** small jigs and Beetle Spins are both good. **Live- Bass:** Shiners or Big Minnows submerged under a popping cork.* **Panfish,:** Crickets, Earthworms, or Wigglers. Gear- sturdy cane pole works fine with live bait. If you want some distance, a light weight spinning rig (4-6lb. test) is ideal.

Cultural Resources Update continued

The lighthouse will be open and exhibits and activities about the history of the lighthouse will be available during the event. Raffle tickets will be for sale for neat lighthouse items.

The Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge is intended to raise awareness about northwest Florida's lighthouses and encourage support for these historic structures. The Challenge is supported in part by grants from the Franklin County Tourist Development Council, the Gulf County Tourist Development Council and the Florida Lighthouse Association. For more details visit

stgeorgelight.org/challenge

Tour and Tales of Port Leon

By Elinor Elfner

The Refuge and St. Marks Waterfronts Florida Partnership are collaborating in this event about the ghost town of Port Leon, located on the Refuge and once the terminus of the Tallahassee-St. Marks Railroad. Ranger Andy Edel will meet you at the Refuge visitors' center at 3:00 pm for a ride out to the site of the old town, where he'll describe the town--its birth, life and death five years later. Then we'll all drive to City of St. Marks and gather on the veranda of Shields Marina on the

St. Marks River, near the site where the railroad bridge was "injudiciously placed" after the Hurricane of 1843. Members of the History Committee of the Waterfronts Partnership will have tales to tell--a Fourth of July celebration in Port Leon, salt works in the area, lawsuits and lawlessness, and several stories about visitors and residents of the town. Beverages and snacks can be purchased at the marina store.

Sunday, April 11, 2010, 3:00 pm until Sunset over the St. Marks River. For reservations, call the refuge at 925-6121.

Adult Photo Contest 1st Place Winners



**1st Place Landscape
by
Lois Hostnick**

**Look for second
place winners in the
summer edition of
the Eagles' Eye**



**1st Place Butterfly by
Steve Coleman**

**1st Place Small Wonders by
Tom Kennedy**



**1st Place Wildlife by
Judy Lyle**



**1st Place People
By Jay Manifold**

Youth Photo Contest 1st Place Winners



**1st Place Youth People
By Diana Robertson**



**1st Place Youth Small Wonders
By Joan Robertson**



**1st Place Youth Butterfly
By Diana Robertson**



**1st Place Youth
Landscape by Dara
Galloway**



**1st Youth Wildlife by
Dara Galloway**

Recently a woman at work mentioned that her daughter's class was going to visit St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge because her school had received a bus grant. I explained that the St. Marks Refuge Association sponsors bus grants so that school groups can come to the refuge. We began this program a few years ago when it was clear that many schools could not afford the bus costs for a field trip. We've awarded 17 grants amounting to over \$4,100.00 since then so that 1,338 school children could have a hands-on experience with nature.

If you wonder, sometimes, as you purchase a beautiful t-shirt or a field guide from our bookstore, what we do with the money, the school bus grant is one area. When you come to the refuge for a festival and sign up for a bus tour, the cost of renting those buses is paid by the association – and, yes, we pay for renting the portable toilets too.

Pretty soon, ground will be broken for a wonderful new education building where we'll be able to hold more public programs in addition to our ongoing environmental education for young people. No doubt, we'll need to raise funds to purchase equipment for the building too.

In the past year, we've received two grants through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. One helped pay for the Web cam at the whooping crane pen. And the other will help pay for a series of histori-

cal signs to fulfill the refuge's commitment to making the public more aware of the history and culture of this part of Florida. We plan to open the St. Marks History Trail in the spring.

Maybe you attended the 2010 Whooping Crane Flyover event and had your picture taken with a crane – not a real crane but a life-size crane pictured on a banner.



That photograph was donated by the good folks at the U.S. Geological Survey who are one of the partners for recovering the whooping

REFUGE REGULATIONS

No Littering,! Help keep your refuge clean!

Enclosed Cooking Fires are permitted in designated picnic areas only. Open fires are not permitted.

Pets must be on a leash and under control of owners at all times.

Collecting or taking of artifacts, natural features, animals or plants on government property is prohibited.

Weapons, fireworks, or firearms are prohibited.

cranes. The association paid for the banner and this "crane" will visit many classrooms to demonstrate just how large the birds are.

Association members and volunteers are proud of the work we do for St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Our "job" is to acquaint more people with the tranquility of the refuge and to raise the next generation to respect and value our natural heritage. We'd be pleased for you to join the association and come to our annual meeting on April 3. We'll send an invitation and have information on our Web site (<http://www.stmarksrefuge.org>) soon. We're always tickled to see you at the refuge.
grtener@hotmail.com
Best Web site:
<http://www.stmarksrefuge.org>

Welcome to Spring at your refuge! With migration of the winter's waterfowl residents behind us, refuge waters are now open to boats with electric trolling motors, and of course, canoes and kayaks. Spring weather raises water temperatures, and insects are beginning new life cycles. Fish are becoming more active, and ready to bite your bait!

Fishing: Boat ramps along Lighthouse Road are open beginning March 15. You'll find great fishing in East River Pool and Mounds I and II. Ride your bike out a couple of miles to reach Stoney Bayou II. This pool has less pressure on it and may be under-fished (Bass, Catfish,

panfish). **All of these pools have been re-stocked with fingerling fish** (Bass, Bluegill, Shellcracker, Speckled Perch). On the Panacea Unit at Otter Lake, you can use a motor up to 10 hp. And, of course, you will also find plenty of beautiful fishing on the flats at the edge of the Gulf (Trout, Redfish, Flounder).

Family opportunities on the refuge include the following: May 8: Join us for our annual Kids' Fishing Clinic and May 16: Kids' Fishing Tournament. Both events are held at Wooley Park in Panacea.

Boating: Visit the pools and rivers on this beautiful refuge. Take your

camera, maybe a bird book or a wildflower guide, and explore the spring happenings all around you.

Caution: Be careful with the strong springtime sun. Use plenty of sunscreen, wear sun glasses to protect your eyes and don't forget to apply some bug repellent.

Hunting: In the spring, it's planning time for the next hunting season, 2010-11. State hunting zones and dates have been changed for the 2010-2011 season. Dates will be announced at a later time.

Book Nook

The holiday decorations are packed away, but there are plenty of wonderful items available in the St. Marks bookstore for those in the gift-giving spirit.

Whooping-crane T-shirts and a few sweatshirts and tote bags are still on the shelves. They sold so well during the flyover, that we had to order more. Thanks to Lou Kellenberger and Gail Fishman for selecting that beautiful design. Among the new items for sale in the store are nature-themed magnetized note pads -- perfect for attaching shopping lists to your refrigerator. For six bucks you get two pads, a magnet and a pencil. Great little gifts to throw into a colorful birthday bag.

The bookstore is also getting a boost from local author Jan Godown Annino. Jan's new chil-

dren's book, "*She Sang Promise, The Story of Betty Mae Jumpers, Seminole Tribal Leader*," is coming out in early March.

Jan, a former *Tallahassee Democrat* editor and environmental reporter, will be selling and autographing the book, which is being published by *National Geographic*, at Tallahassee's Downtown Marketplace on April 3. She is donating a portion of her sales to the St. Marks Refuge Association. Also, on May 1, Jan will be signing "*She Sang Promise*", at the refuge visitor center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a beautifully written and illustrated book that would be a great addition to your bookshelf. We will be stocking it, as well as the latest edition of Jan's "*Family Fun in Florida*" travel book.

Speaking of books: We have received

Janie Nelson

new copies of Gail Fishman's "*Journeys Through Paradise*." Gail, president of the St. Marks Refuge Association Board, has autographed the books.

Some special thanks:

- * Jayne Parker, who willingly drops in when I need a helping hand.
- * Lois Hostnick, who donates all the proceeds from her earring sales to the association.
- * Neil Hostnick, who matted those fabulous photos from the Photo Club that, in the words of refuge sage Robin Will, "sold like hotcakes" to the folks attending the whooping crane workshop.
- * Teresa Darraugh and Gayle Kittendorf for keeping us supplied with the Photo Club cards and bookmarks.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 68
St. Marks, FL 32355
(850) 925-6121
<http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks>
[Www.stmarksrefuge.org](http://www.stmarksrefuge.org)

Photo Contest Best of Show

Sign up for membership

ST. MARKS REFUGE ASSOCIATION



PLEASE CHECK MEMBERSHIP

◇ Individual/Family	\$ 25.00
◇ Organization	\$ 50.00
◇ Senior (over 62)	\$ 20.00
◇ Supporting	\$ 50.00
◇ Student (under 16)	\$ 5.00
◇ Class	\$ 10.00
◇ Life	\$250.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (home): _____

Phone (office): _____

Email: _____

Gift membership Y / N: Or Memorial Y / N

In memory of: _____



**Best of Show Adult
By David Moynahan**



**Best of Show Youth
By Diana Robertson**