



"The Eagle's Eye"

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

USFWS and Oil Spill

Land Expansion Approved

SUMMER 2010

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sent more than 350 personnel into the Gulf of Mexico region to respond to the BP Oil Spill. We are working with BP and many partners to do everything we can to minimize the impact of the oil spill on fish, wildlife and habitat.

Our people are preparing for potential oil impact at 35 wildlife refuges that line the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. These precious national resources are home to dozens of threatened and endangered species, including West Indian manatees, whooping cranes, Mississippi sandhill cranes, wood storks and four species of sea turtles.

We are conducting aerial and ground surveys to assess the damage, and recovering oiled or injured wildlife to be cleaned, healed and released in safe locations. Although so far oiled wildlife recovered has been minimal, we expect the number to increase.

On June 7, 2010, the St. Marks NWR expansion proposal for approximately 35,295 acres was approved and signed by Acting USFWS Director Dan Ashe. The lands targeted for protection will assist the refuge in habitat enhancement for endangered wildlife and plants, as well as buffer the potential effects of both climate change and sea level rise. The President's budget request for FY 2011, which begins in October 2010, includes \$1 million dollars for St. Marks NWR. This plus the possible congressional appropriation of 2011 acquisition dollars, will enable realty specialists and refuge management to soon request permission to appraise one or more of our highest priority acquisition targets.

The Service continues to work with The Nature Conservancy to buy a 120 acre parcel that is within our currently approved acquisition boundary. It is a slow process, but we are hopeful that this tract, northeast of the Pinhook River and adjacent to Florida FWC Flint Rock WMA, will soon be part of the Refuge.

On The Inside

- Pg. 2 Refuge Manager's Report
- Pg. 3 Law Enforcement Update
- Pg. 3 Fishing and Hunting
- Pg. 4 Eye on Nature
- Pg. 5 Environmental Education
- Pg. 5 Outdoor Fun for Kids
- Pg. 6 Agencies Burning Together
- Pg. 7 St. Marks Unit Map
- Pg. 8 Calendar of Events
- Pg. 9 Photo Club Update
- Pg. 9 Shorebirds

- Pg. 10 Adult Photo 2nd Place Winners
- Pg. 11 Youth Photo 2nd Place Winners
- Pg. 12 Association News
- Pg. 13 Federal Duck Stamp
- Pg. 13 Book Nook
- Pg. 14 Membership/Memoriam

St. Marks NWR
P.O. Box 68 St. Marks, FL 32355
(850) 925-6121

<http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks>

Refuge staff Dallas Beckett and Chris Weber, plus the inmate crew, carefully removed the Environmental Education cabin, the boardwalk from the parking lot, and several trees in preparation for construction of the new education building. The building contract has been awarded and construction will begin by the end of June. We should have approximately three times the meeting capacity. If all goes well, we hope to christen the new facility in the spring of 2011.

The main saltwater boat ramp down by the lighthouse will also be replaced this summer by the same company completing the education building. We were given ARRA (stimulus) funds to build a wider and longer ramp.

You will be seeing a lot of new faces around the refuge this summer. We have local Youth Conservation Corps student John Cooper, assisting with maintenance. We have two Student Conservation Association interns assisting with fire effects monitoring, Meagan Gamble and Topher Wescott. John Ball, a volunteer intern, is working with the biological

programs. In addition, we have a Student Temporary Employee Program employee, Aubrey Sirman, assisting biologists. Josh Havird is the Student Conservation Experience Program employee working with the fire program. If you see one of our new faces, stop and say hello.

We have a new Information Technology (IT) staff person. His name is John Edwards and his office will be up at Work Center. John is ex-Army and in Naval Reserves and graduated from local Wakulla High School. John will be solving all the IT problems for USFWS refuge from coastal Mississippi east to Egmont Key, Florida. We are looking forward to having him fix our ailing computers.

So, although current projections do not have the oil impacting this area, we will still be alert, watching the tropical storms because that could change everything.

Have a wonderful summer on your National Wildlife Refuge!

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 May 1 for upcoming year's applications and permit information, **or visit**

www.fws.gov/saintmarks

Hot summer months aren't the best hiking and biking times, but boating activity and flats fishing are prime. The boat ramp at the lighthouse will be busy with folks accessing the Gulf of Mexico.

Refuge Law Enforcement Officers will be patrolling Lighthouse Road and other refuge lands checking

for compliance on vessels and bag/size limits on fish. Speeding is another issue these officers will be looking for on Lighthouse Road.

We will be checking for compliance with the entrance fees on Lighthouse Rd. These funds help pay for restroom cleaning con-

tracts, printed brochures and Visitor Center personnel, etc.

Visitors having a safe experience on St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and protecting the resource are top priorities. Please report any suspicious activity to the ranger in the Visitor Center.

Fishing and Hunting on the Refuge

It sure is nice to have water in all of the impoundments, ponds, ditches, and lakes around the refuge. This past spring offered some of the best fishing in Otter Lake I have seen in ten years. With consistent rain and tropical storms steering clear, the impoundments adjacent to Lighthouse Road have recovered from droughts and saltwater intrusion, offering panfish limits to many anglers. Refuge staff have restocked Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish (shellcracker) in major impoundments to supplement the quality and quantity of fish. Just remember, when the biting flies are thick, so are the feeding fish. Here are some tips for "pitch fishing:"

The tools: Use a 10-14 foot telescoping fiberglass fishing pole, 4-6 pound test line (the same length as the pole), a 1 or 2 inch cork colored float, a #8 black hook, the smallest split shot you can buy, and finally a cricket box with a hundred or so crickets.

The Order: Remove all excess "tag line" from the eye of the hook, providing a great presentation. Place the split shot six inches above the hook, and the cork twenty inches above the hook. Impale the cricket from mid belly, exiting the chin, exposing the point and barb.

The Placement: Methodically drop the live bait in every gap where vegetation stops and open water is available, working the shoreline by boat or walking. Make sure your shadow is not cast into your fishing zone and utilize early and late hours for prime time activity. How does that sink your cork!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Quota permits are available each year for hunting big game on the Panacea and Wakulla Units of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. These hunting slots are available through a lottery system beginning early May. The application process ends mid June and selected individuals must pay for permits by early August. All left-

over permits will be sold first come August 10, 2010 at 10:00am.

For more information please visit <http://myfwc.com/license/HuntQuotaLimitedEntryWorksheets.htm>

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.

Fireworks are prohibited.

Gators, we got 'em! Thousands of them make their home on the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. One of the largest predators on the refuge, the alligator sits at the top of the food chain (or so it seems). But, sometimes the

ally a great blue heron or maybe a white pelican will indulge in a snack of baby gator.

The picture below was taken on the refuge by my friend and former colleague at FSU, Professor Emeritus, Dr. George



tables are turned and the mighty gator is eaten by predator birds such as the great blue heron, great egret and possibly the white pelican. How, you say, does such a thing happen? Remember, the twelve foot gator began life as an egg. The rule in the refuge is big eats little. So occasion-

Dawson. The gator is dining on a banded white pelican. He doesn't seem to care that biologists are tracking the whereabouts of the pelican lunch that he is enjoying.

Back to the rule that big eats little, this is a good rule to follow if you meet an alligator on

the levee at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. If the alligator is bigger than you are, give him the levee and pick another levee for yourself. A large alligator can run faster than a human for ten to fifteen yards; so don't approach him. If he is smaller than you, chances are that he thinks that you might eat him and he will give the levee to you.

When we walk the levees in my digital nature photography class, I am careful to point out the Big Eats Little Rule to my students.

The photo class is taught the first Saturday of each month from 9-12 and is free and open to anyone (families are welcome).

Call the refuge at (850)925-6121 to reserve a place in the class. All levels of photography experience are welcome.

Thanks for coming by the refuge, and remember: **Big Eats Little!**

This has been an eventful year. We have said good bye to the cabin and anxiously await the beginning of the new education facility. Rest assured we will still offer school programs in the fall, they will just be adjusted somewhat to compensate for the lack of an education facility. Many teachers have already started booking for the fall, so if you are interested email me now to make plans for

the 2010-2011 school year.

We had a really busy 2009-2010 school year. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped, and thanks to all the teachers that booked programs. This year we have seen over 10, 300 participants in education programs and environmental outreach, an increase of almost 1,000 from last year. The new applications for the

transportation scholarships will be available in July, so check the website or email me for a copy. There are a few changes from last years edition.

Keep an eye open for our new building to start and hopefully we will have some drawings for you in the fall newsletter. Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Outdoor Fun for Kids at St. Marks

Heather Bevis



Tots on Trails Participants finish up the program by doing leaf rubbings.

A 2009 United Kingdom survey found that seven out of ten parents felt their children did not know enough about the natural world, and over two-thirds of these parents were concerned that their children spent too much time indoors playing computer games. Parents are right to be concerned. The benefits of time spent outdoors are astounding. Children with ADHD show less symptoms when in a natural setting. Nature play increases self-esteem, crea-

tivity and self-discipline. It also improves physical conditioning and reduces obesity. According to the Institute of Medicine, childhood obesity rates have more than tripled for children ages 6 to 11 over the past 30 years. Not only does the lack of time spent outdoors negatively impact children, it could impact the future of our environment as well.

Children who lack understanding of the natural world may not grow into adults that care about the environment. These are the policy and decision makers of the future.

St. Marks has many opportunities to get outdoors. Two programs that will resume in the fall are Families in Na-

ture and Tots on Trails. Families in Nature is held on the 4th Saturday of each month. Each month offers a different theme with a scavenger hunt, crafts and other activities. No registration is required. Tots on Trails is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Registration is required for this program for parents and their little ones. We'll take a short walk and do an fun activity. Please call the refuge at (850) 925-6121 for more information or to register.



Ranger Bevis and April's Tots on Trails Participants enjoy nature on Plum Orchard Pond Trail.

On Thursday, May 13th, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Ochlockonee River State Park, The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Division of Forestry worked together to control burn 1,008 acres on the refuge and 246 acres on the state park.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Ochlockonee River State Park maintain an area located east of SR319, south of Sopchoppy River and North of the Ochlockonee River. This area is sandhill habitat for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker and gopher tortoise, a state listed species of special concern. Both of these animals are part of the pyric habitat called the Florida sandhills. The fire consumes the vegetation thus keeping the area grassy with short shrubs. Red-cockaded woodpeckers prefer the grass and short shrubs so that predators can not get into their nest cavities very easily. The grass and short shrubs make it easier for the gopher tortoise to find food and to



move about.

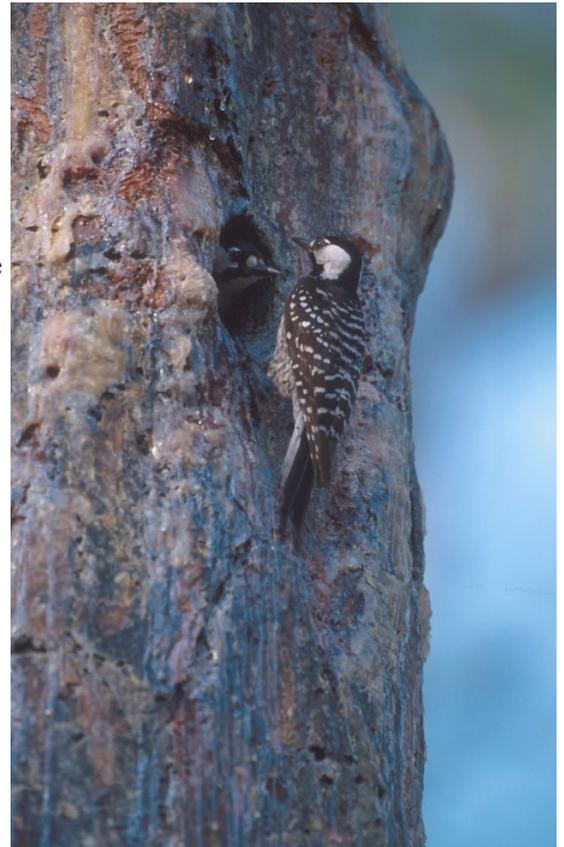
St. Marks NWR Fire Management Officer, Greg Titus, said in the pre-burn briefing, “All of our agencies working together on this prescribed fire shows our dedication to the objectives of maintaining the natural Florida landscape.”

The National Wildlife Refuge and the State Park decided the safest and most effective way to mimic the natural fire regime of the land was to implement a prescribed fire.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge fire managers ground ignited their land using drip torches with assistance of a fire crew from The Nature Conservancy. While the Ochlockonee State Park ignited their land using aerial ignition from a Florida Division of Forestry helicopter.

Ignition from a helicopter is implemented by using a plastic sphere dispenser machine. A plastic sphere is about the size and shape of a ping pong ball. The sphere has potassium permanganate loaded inside. The sphere is injected with glycol and dropped out of the dispenser machine and

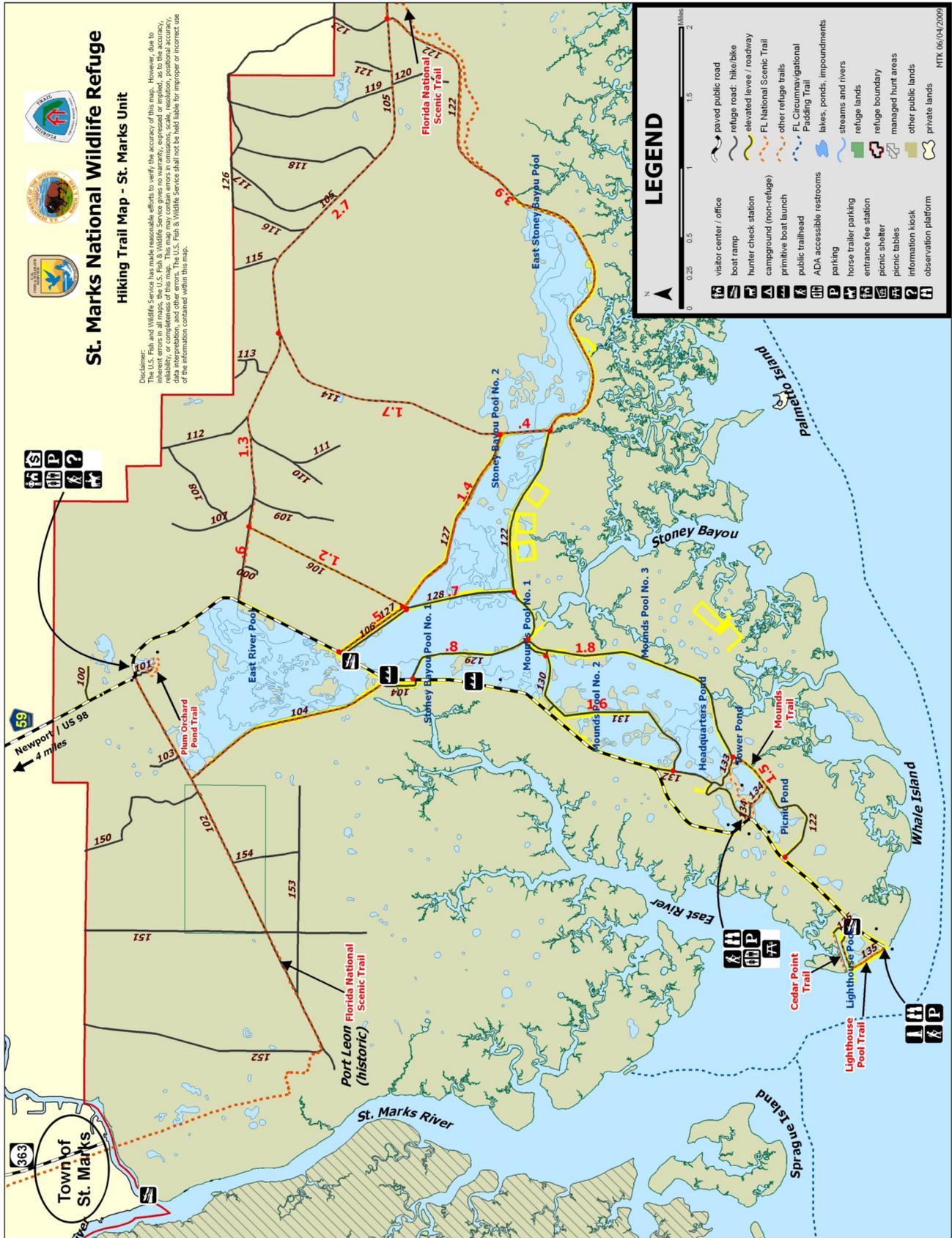
helicopter. When potassium permanganate and glycol are mixed the reaction is exothermic. This reaction ignites the plastic sphere in about 30 seconds. Once the



sphere lands on the vegetative fuel bed, it flames and catches the vegetation on fire, igniting the designated area during the control burn.

Kevin Patton, Park Manager, stated, “Working together with the other agencies afforded a unique and efficient opportunity to use this controlled burn to train 5 new aerial ignition operators. These operators will continue to help the Park system maintain their fire-dependent landscapes.”

St. Marks Map with Trail Numbers



Calendar of Events Summer-Fall 2010

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

Saturday June 26 - (not usual date this month) Photo Club meeting 9 am until finished. Contact President Tom Darragh for more information at thomasd@talstar.com

Thurs. July 1 – Scallop season opens.

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

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

Sat. August 7 - Photo Class with Ranger Barney Parker. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*

Sat. Aug. 14 - Fee free day.

Sun. Aug. 15 - Fee free day

Sat. Aug. 21 Photo Club meeting 9 am until finished. Contact President Tom Darragh for more information at thomasd@talstar.com

Sat. Sept. 4 – Photo Class with Ranger Barney Parker. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*

Friday Sept. 10 – Scallop season closes.

Sat. Sept. 18 – Keep Wakulla

Beautiful Coastal Cleanup Sat. Sept. 18 - Photo Club meeting 9 am until finished. Contact President Tom Darragh for more information at thomasd@talstar.com

Sept. 24-30 Take a Child Outside Week! Spend time with your children outside.

Sat. Sept. 25 – Take A Child Outside Day, Families in Nature kick-off; Fee Free day- Public Lands Day—St. Marks NWR will have neat activities!

Sat. Oct. 2 - Photo Class with Ranger Barney Parker. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*

Sat. Oct. 9 – Fee free for National Wildlife Refuge Week. – ends on Sat. Oct. 16.

Sun. Oct. 10-Big Sit—family birding activity - meet at the light-house.

Friday Oct. 15 – Pools close to all boats until March 15.

Sat. Oct. 16 – Photo Club meeting 9 am until finished. Contact President Tom Darragh for more information at thomasd@talstar.com

Sat. Oct. 23 – Monarch Butterfly Festival & Families in Nature

Wakulla Archery Hunt – Tues. Nov. 2 – Sat. Nov. 6

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.

Photo Club Update

Tom Darragh

The Photo Club held our third anniversary picnic in May at St. George Island State Park. We thought we would try out some beach photography. Listed below are a few helpful tips on taking photos in bright light.

Since we are homeless for a while with out the Educational Cabin, please watch the Association Web site for any changes in club meetings. June will be moved to the fourth Saturday of the month, June . We will meet at the Lighthouse at 5pm for Sun Set and then Full Moon photos. We

should have an extra low tide, but still bring your waders if you have them. We hope to plan other safari trips for the summer months so watch for updates. If you are not on the club's email list and would like to be, just email Tom Darragh at thomasd@talstar.com. Come and join the fun, bring your family or friends, and any type of camera.

Beach Photography can be very tricky, and getting good exposure is often a nightmare. Under-expose a bit to preserve the color.

Find something to be your focal point (a lone sea shell or a piece

of drift wood)

Use a UV or polarizing filter. (Or use your Sunglasses)

MOST IMPORTANT TIP (BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR EQUIPMENT) Sand and water can ruin your camera!



Shorebirds at St. Marks NWR

Donna O'Daniel



in Alaska and northern Canada, they congregate by the thousands on mud flats at low tide. These flocks can be seen in Tower Pond, a tidal impoundment which has extensive mud flats at low tide. Other beautiful and interest-

ing species can be seen there as well, including Black-necked Stilts, Short-billed Dowitchers, Black-bellied Plovers, American Avocets, and Black Skimmers. One of the great things about shorebirds and wading birds is that they are highly visible, unlike warblers and vireos which sometimes can be frustratingly difficult to see.

Most birdwatchers agree that shorebirds can be difficult to identify. Many species of shorebirds can be seen on the Refuge in any season of the year, but in the spring, some of them don their bright breeding plumage, making identification easier. Take, for instance, the Dunlin, which exchanges its dull brownish-gray winter plumage for its very visible black belly patch, rufous cap, and bright rufous-brown back.

Just before Dunlins migrate north to their summer breeding grounds

Scattered among the many shorebirds in Tower Pond, several wading birds can generally be seen. These include Snowy and Great Egrets, Tricolored Herons, and even an occasional Reddish Egret, with its unmistakable foraging behavior. It chases fish on foot, running, jumping, and spinning about—indeed, a sight to behold! These are just some of the many beautiful birds that our visitors can enjoy when they visit St. Marks NWR!

(photos of avocets (top) and black skimmers by Betty Hamilton)



Adult Photo Contest 2nd Place Winners



2nd Place Landscape by David Moynahan



2nd Place Butterfly by Gene Vincent



2nd Place Small Wonders by Kathy Galloway



2nd Place Wildlife by George Burton



2nd Place People By Lois Hostnick

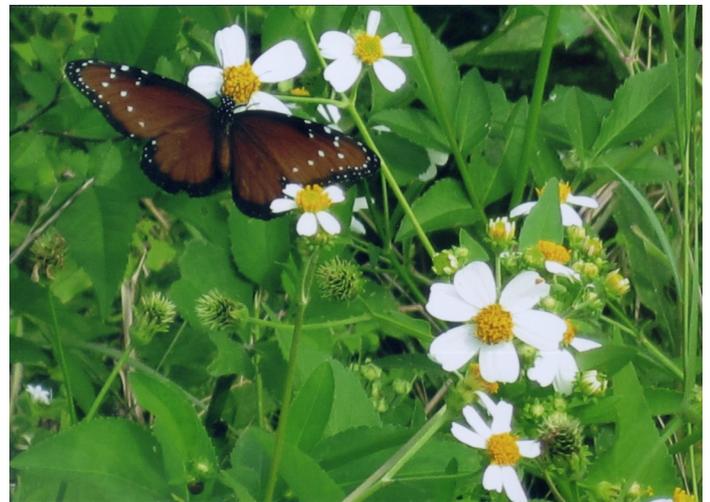
Youth Photo Contest 2nd Place Winners



**2nd Place Youth Landscape by
Joan Robertson**



**2nd Place Youth Small Wonders
By Diana Robertson**



**2nd Place Youth Butterfly
By Dara Galloway**



**2nd Youth Wildlife by
Joan Robertson**

It has been a glorious spring. Winter's rains brought an outstanding display of wildflowers. Yet, the oil faucet in the Gulf of Mexico has claimed our attention for weeks. So far, the oil has not reached the marshes in our area but we watch and hope the gusher can be stopped. Amidst our concern there are several bright spots.

We had a lovely annual meeting with about 100 people attending at the Giles Thompson house. As always the food was great.

We've said goodbye to the old Education Cabin and eagerly await the new building. The St. Marks refuge maintenance crew did a super neat job of recycling when possible and carefully removing the debris.

Most of the board attended the Southeast Regional Friends Group Conference in Crystal River, Florida in early April. Forty of the 44

Friends Groups in the region were represented. We met people from the regional office in Atlanta and also from the Washington office and brought our concerns to their attention. Programs on building partnerships and diversity among friends were offered. FWS personnel voiced strong support for land acquisition programs at this time.

On a somber note, on our trip to view the refuge by boat we saw that the Crystal River, named for its clarity, is no longer clear but darker than any tannin stained stream. Pollutants in the groundwater are being pumped out of the springs that fuel the river; a vivid example of how we are soiling our own nest.

The cultural/historical signs are about to go into production and should be installed before fall. We thank the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the matching grant that has enabled the

association to complete this project for the refuge.

Of Special Note: Tireless volunteers Tom Darragh and Craig Kittendorf, who have donated thousands of hours to refuge projects, continue to work with technicians to improve the crane camera transmission. Thank you!

On May 22, 2010 nature lost a great friend and our most steadfast volunteer when Loren Curro died unexpectedly. Loren was taken by a sudden heart attack while hiking with friends on a trail near the Aucilla River. He died as most of us wish, suddenly while doing something we love. Please see the back of this newsletter for more information.



Loren Helps put fishing rods together for 2010 Kids fishing clinic. Photo by Joe Bonislawsky.



Loren Curro helps Robin Will at the 2010 Kids fishing Clinic in Panacea. Photo by Joe Bonislawsky

J.N. "Ding" Darling created the first Federal Duck Stamp in 1934 to be the required federal license for hunting migratory waterfowl. Since 1934, of the 119.3 million Duck Stamps purchased nationwide, 1.61 million have been purchased in Florida. Nationwide \$671.1 million has been raised for habitat conservation. This successful program uses 98 cents of every dollar spent on the stamp to purchase or lease wetlands for National Wildlife Refuges. Winning the National Duck Stamp contest is a major achievement for a wildlife artist. About 1.8 million stamps are sold every year to hunters, collectors and wildlife enthusiasts.

If you are looking for the perfect Father's Day gift you only need to purchase a Duck Stamp and here

are the top 10 reasons to do so: 1. \$.98 of every dollar spent on the stamp goes to wetland conservation; 2. You will support wildlife artists; 3. The stamps are beautiful; 4. They are truly an investment in the future; 5. A duck stamp is required for waterfowl hunters; 6. They are highly collectible; 7. Very easy to wrap such a small package; 8. They promote interest in waterfowl; 9. The Duck Stamp also covers the entrance fee for a refuge; 10. It's a perfect excuse to visit your favorite refuge.

The 2010 stamp, a beautiful American Wigeon by Robert Bealle, will go on

sale July 1st (see photo below) but a few 2009 stamps are still available.

Visit

<http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/> to learn more about Federal Duck Stamps and go to

<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/> to learn about the Junior Duck Stamp program.



Book Nook

Local author Jan Godown Annino signed her latest book "She Sang Promise" May 1 at the Visitor Center. The book, which is available in the Book Store, is the story of Seminole tribal leader Betty May Jumper. In addition to signing books, Jan brought along her "traveling museum" that includes Indian artifacts and hands-on children's activities. She also taught young visitors to the refuge how to make patchwork book-marks and passed out her homemade pumpkin bread.

Another of Jan's books, "Scenic Driving Florida" also is on sale at the SMRA store, as is Jumper's

book, "Legends of the Seminoles. The latest book by local author Doug Alderson, "Encounters with Florida's Endangered Wildlife," is also now available at the store. Doug has agreed to come down for a book signing sometime this fall.

Other new items in the bookstore include a foldout map to Florida lighthouses and several new fishing books that are specific to our area.

As always, the Visitor Center had some interesting visitors this month. One gentleman particularly stands out. It was a gorgeous day outside, but he chose to bring his large camera and tripod into the Visitor Center, where

Janie Nelson

he proceeded to take photos of the dioramas. After he finished his photo tour, he headed to the stack of T-shirts and began building a pile. "I just bought \$300 worth of T-shirts at the Merritt Island Refuge," he said. When asked if he gave them as gift, he said "no," they were just for him. "Nobody will believe you went anywhere if you don't have a T-shirt from there," he said.

He spent \$160 with us, and is spreading the news of our wonderful refuge system with a wardrobe full of T-shirts!

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

In Memory of Loren Curro 1947 – 2010

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: _____



Loren helping the boy scouts put the rods and reels together for the 2008 Kids fishing clinic. Photo by Betsy Kellenburger.

Loren turned out for every refuge event, ready to do any job. He was committed to the Florida Trail and helped on maintenance hikes here on the refuge. He seemed shy but Loren was passionate about the causes he believed in. For sometime he had been working on his autobiography about his great effort to triumph over Asperger syndrome. He had just reviewed the final draft of *An Asperger Journey: from Hell to Hope*. His story will soon be available. Our lives were richer for having known him and now we are poorer because he is gone. We will miss his beautiful smile and gentle, caring spirit.