



# FRIENDS OF SQUAW CREEK REPORTER Mound City, Missouri

**Fall 2007**

**Volume 8 Number 3**

## **SQUAW CREEK CALENDAR:**

**Fall Volunteer Work Day: September 15**  
**Fall Open House Weekends: October 6 -**  
**November**  
**25**  
**BigSit Bird Count: October 14**  
**National Wildlife Refuge Week: October 7 -**  
**13 Volunteer Recognition Picnic: October 13**  
**5K Fun Run: October 13**  
**Deer Count/Hay Ride (by reservation only):**  
**November 3**  
**Eagle Days: December 1 - 2**  
**Christmas Bird Count: December 14**

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## **VISITOR OFFICE COMMITTEE**

Vic Miles 816-444-2459  
Amanda Griffin 660-572-0267

## **REFUGE WETLAND COMMITTEE**

Vic Miles 816-444-2459

## **EAGLE DAYS COMMITTEE**

Amanda Griffin 660-572-0267

PLEASE give the above committee  
chairpersons a call to assist them.

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**We need volunteers to keep the Bookstore open this Fall. If no one volunteers, the Bookstore will be closed that day. If you can work any Saturday or Sunday between Oct**

**6th and Nov. 25th, please call either Vic Miles (816-444-2459) or Amanda Griffin (660-572-0267.)**

**We also need volunteers to come out to help on the Fall Workday, September 15th. Lunch will be provided.**

**Visit our website at [www.squawcreek.org](http://www.squawcreek.org) for recent bird surveys, events, etc.**

**We also will be needing help for Eagle Days, December 1-2, especially on Sunday. Our new co-ordinator, Amanda Griffin, will be needing help in preparing for the event starting in early September. A lot of food, donations, equipment, etc. must be arranged well before December. Give her a call if you can help.**

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**Items for the newsletter must be sent to George W. (Bill) Scheil at 7311 Ditzler, Raytown, MO 64133 or to him at [gwsch@juno.com](mailto:gwsch@juno.com). The deadline for the next issue will be November 1.**

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## **SUMMER BOARD MEETING**

**Summary of the Minutes from the Friends Board Meeting at Applebees on 7-28-07.**

Friends of Squaw Creek Board members held their quarterly meeting at Applebees on July 28, 2007. Present were Bill and George Scheil, Ed McCullough, Vic Miles, Jeanine Montgomery, Amanda Griffin, Tommie Rogers, David Norwood and Ron Bell.

After the minutes of the last meeting and the treasurers report was read and approved, the board nominated Phil Reicher as the new Treasurer. Treasurer Charlie Clodfelter resigned from the board due to other commitments.

Ron Bell, Refuge mgr. gave a report on the Boardwalk project. An estimated cost for the boardwalk was \$65,000.

He also reported that the regions sign shop has closed.

Tommie Rogers gave a brief report on the Bookstore and that she was getting more educational books to sell and that we were well stocked with other merchandise for Fall.

Ed McCullough reported on our Web site and that the Calendar of Events will be added.

Bill Scheil completed leaflets and delivered them to the refuge.

A check was given to Ed McCullogh to purchase binoculars from Bushnell for the outdoor classroom.

Visitor center open house weekend statistics were handed out by Ron Bell showing visitation peaks and yearly numbers of revenue and visitors. 2003 had the highest # of visitors but the revenue from the bookstore was highest in 2006. The 8 year

average number of visitors on Saturdays was 334 and on Sundays 273.

Amanda Griffin gave a report on the new Jr. naturalist program that she is teaching at the refuge.

Amanda also has agreed to head up our Eagle Days food booth in Dec. Thank you Amanda!

Sept. 15th was set for the next board meeting.

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### **Junior Naturalist Program**

A Junior Naturalist Program was planned, organized and initiated by Biological Science Aid (and Friends Board Member) Amanda Griffin in mid-June and initiated June 28. She came up with the idea for this program so that we could reach young children (geared toward 6-14 year olds) in the local community and area and give them exposure to Squaw Creek and the environment. It also gave us an opportunity to utilize the outdoor classroom. A total of 26 attended the first program and approximately 30 have attended each week since (Thursday nights). Twenty-two children officially signed up to be Junior Naturalists. The program will continue to the end of August and a decision has not yet been made once school starts but there might be Saturday programs. A Doris Andes Memorial was established with money (\$340) to be used for any expenses toward this program.

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### **Weekend Volunteers**

There has been a decline in the number of volunteers to staff the office during the 8 weeks in the spring and fall. Due to budget constraints, Squaw Creek can no longer afford to have a staff member (primarily Charlie Marshall) available to work on weekends and, therefore, we are going to return to just having volunteers staff the office on weekends this fall and next spring. At the most recent Friends Board Meeting, it was decided that Charlie would work if there were volunteers. However, after further looking at our finances, no staff member will be available. This will make it critical to have volunteers to staff the office if there is a sincere desire to continue this program. There will be a need to arrange for keys to the office as in the past. If you want to volunteer, please contact Board Members Vic Miles or Amanda Griffin. We are also trying to recruit someone from St. Joseph Midland Empire Audubon Society to assist in this effort.

### **Flood Repair**

Repairs from the May flood have been progressing thanks to the hot, dry weather (something good has to be said about the heat!). The following repairs have been completed: Teal Pool dike; washout on the auto tour route at the northwest corner of Pelican Pool; Davis Creek Unit #4 dike and control structure; Cattail Triangle south dike; Bluff Pool west dike and water control structure; cleaning out the Squaw Creek spillway; and road gravel on the auto tour route. Work is continuing on the cross dike on Davis Creek Unit #5 and may be completed the next week. Other work accomplished included replacing the control between Eagle and Pelican Pool and replacing the cables on the 3 Eagle Pool radial gates. The inlet water control structures on Eagle and Pelican Pool are also scheduled to be replaced - both completely rusted out last fall.

### **New Floors in Office Bathroom and Entry**

Last year, we were able to cover the concrete floor in the new public restroom. The floor always look dirty and was very difficult to clean. As a result, we felt it was time to do the same in the Headquarters Building. The next time you visit, you will see a nice shiny clean-looking floor in the entry and in the bathroom. This covered the old orange tile that was difficult to get clean and greatly improved the appearance of the office.

### **Youth Conservation Corp (YCC)**

Three local youth and one leader worked for 8 weeks this summer at Squaw Creek completing a variety of labor-intensive projects. They were able to keep the headquarters area and all of the public use facilities mowed and trimmed. They also were involved in invasive weed control and assisted in the auto tour route pull offs. This was the 5th consecutive year for the program and is funded by the Region in an effort to employ local youth in environmental work projects.

### **Auto Tour Route Pull Offs - Boardwalk - Signs**

Six pull offs are being developed along the auto tour route. Each pull off will have a concrete slab with a bench, interpretive sign and spotting scope. The locations are as follows: Mallard Marsh pump; Mallard Marsh eagle nest; Davis Creek moist soil unit #1; Cattail Pool triangle; Pelican Pool; and Snow Goose C. The concrete has been poured at 3 so far with benches and several signs installed. The spotting scopes are scheduled to arrive in September. Some of the signs have arrived and many will go on the 3 new kiosks as well. All of the dirt has been added to the

boardwalk site and the order for the materials is in the Regional Contracting Office.

Friends of Squaw Creek  
National Wildlife Refuge.....  
7311 Ditzler, Kansas City, MO 64133

## **Habitat and Water Management**

During the summer, vegetation in a number of moist soil units and dry wetlands was mowed to control brush, cocklebur and river bulrush. Some of the early mowing permitted wild millet and other seed producing plants to grow and produce abundant seed for the fall migration. The water control structures on both Davis and Squaw Creek have been lowered to begin flooding. The Mallard Marsh pump will be started before the end of the month and the pump at the Rice Paddy moist soil unit has been running for more than a week to flood for shorebirds.

## **Refuge Personnel**

Wildlife Refuge Specialist Corey Kudrna spent 5 weeks at Swan Lake NWR as acting manager. Refuge Manager John Guthrie retired in the spring and there was a need for a manager until a new manager was selected. Squaw Creek is adding another employee to its staff. The Region authorized a full time fire management position at Squaw Creek this spring. A selection has been made and hopefully will be filled by early November. This individual will also be responsible for planning and coordinating fire for Swan Lake NWR as well.

**Directors and Officers of Friends of Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge**

**Director & Vice-President - Ed McCullough, 5915 NW Caney Creek, Kansas City, MO 64151  
[emccullo@metropolis.com](mailto:emccullo@metropolis.com)**

**Director & Vice-President - George L. Scheil, 9718 East 53rd St., Raytown, MO 64133  
[glSCH2@comcast.net](mailto:glSCH2@comcast.net)**

**Director - Amanda Griffin, 302 Mill St., Mound City, MO 64470  
[amandadawngriffin@hotmail.com](mailto:amandadawngriffin@hotmail.com)**

**Director - David Norwood, 6515 Jefferson, Kansas City, MO 64114**

**Secretary - Jeanine Montgomery, 18637 Highway 113, Maitland, MO 64466  
[jcandcompany@yahoo.com](mailto:jcandcompany@yahoo.com)**

**Treasurer - Phil Reicher, 401 W. 58th Terr., Kansas City, MO 64113**

**Director - Tommie Rogers, 305 Weightman Road, M o u n d C i t y , M O 6 4 4 7 0  
[moroadrunner@longviewcomm.net](mailto:moroadrunner@longviewcomm.net)**

President - Vic Miles, 5917 Wornall, Kansas City, MO  
64113 [vicmiles@juno.com](mailto:vicmiles@juno.com)

Newsletter Editor & Director- George W. Scheil, 7311  
Ditzler, Kansas City, MO 64133 [gwsch@juno.com](mailto:gwsch@juno.com)

<b>FRIENDS OF SQUAW CREEK NWR</b>			
Friends of Squaw Creek is a tax-exempt organization & appreciate your membership and donations.			
<b>PLEASE PRINT :</b>			
<b>NAME:</b> _____			
<b>ADDRESS:</b> _____			
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<b>PHONE:</b> _____			
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Membership Category:		1 yr	2 yr
_____ Student(all)		\$5	
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Send form and your remittance to:			
Treasurer			
P O Box 244			
Mound City, MO 64470			