



FRIENDS OF SQUAW CREEK REPORTER Mound City, Missouri

Summer 2007

Volume 8 Number 2

SQUAW CREEK CALENDAR:

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REFUGE WETLAND COMMITTEE

Vic Miles 816-444-2459

EAGLE DAYS COMMITTEE

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

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. The deadline for the next issue will be August 15.

Spring Workday

The 19th annual spring volunteer workday was held April 21. The 25 volunteers worked with Refuge Manager Bell and Refuge Operations Specialist Kudrna. The volunteers donated 135 hours on a variety of projects including treating Illinois garlic mustard, native plant restoration, cleaning up the headquarters flower beds, sprucing up the

headquarters lawn and clearing for the construction of the new board walk trail. One notable volunteer group was students from the Missouri Western State University Wildlife Society. Volunteer Kenny Bahr accepted a certificate signed by Service Director Dale Hall for his 2,000 volunteer hours. Following lunch, Manager Bell updated the volunteers on recent refuge happenings and improvements.

Women in the Outdoors

The 2nd annual Women in the Outdoors program was held April 13 & 14. This 2 day event provided women an opportunity to learn new outdoor skills and experience the natural wonders of Squaw Creek in a non-threatening/noncompetitive environment. Despite the predicted snow which fortunately didn't develop, a total of 38 of the 40 that registered were able to attend. One unique opportunity offered this year was the participation of 4 youth. The Mound City and Oregon Kiwanis Clubs paid for the registration for these 4 youth to attend. Women came from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska with several arriving from southern Missouri. Twenty participated in a Friday evening mixer, games and meal while 30 (including some instructors) opted to have dinner at the Klub in Mound City Saturday night. Six of the classes included natural history subjects including a look at and the development of the vineyard. Some of the outdoor skills included Dutch oven cooking, fly fishing, pioneer skills, basics of photography and turkey hunting. This program will be continued in the future due to the great deal of interest by all those who attended.

Auto Tour Route Pulloffs

A total of 6 pull offs on the auto tour route will be completed this summer. The locations are as follows: near the southwest corner of Pelican Pool; Snow Goose Pool B; Mallard Marsh pump station, Mallard Marsh Eagle Nest; Davis Creek moist soil unit #1 and the Cattail Triangle. There will be a bench and spotting scope on each of the concrete bases plus an interpretive sign. Dirt has been hauled to each location and the benches have arrived. Concrete will be poured soon. Some signs have been ordered. In addition, the board walk trail location was cleared on workday, dirt fill will be added and materials will be ordered this summer. There is no definite time frame when the trail will be completed at this time.

Hunting Shed for Handicap Deer Hunter

Manager Bell contacted White-tails Unlimited this spring in regards to the potential purchase of a hunting shed for use by physically challenged deer hunters. This shed would provide an opportunity for someone in a wheel chair to be able to participate in our annual muzzle loader deer hunt in January. A number of White-tails Unlimited Chapters in Missouri raised enough money to purchase one and donate it to Squaw Creek. It will be available for our January hunt. The building will be 6' x 8' x 6 1/2' high with six - 12" x 24" fold down windows and with a floor. It will be placed at the north end of the Refuge.

WHSRN Dedication

(Cancelled due to flooding, no new date yet.)

The WHSRN Dedication will take place on Saturday, May 12. The agenda includes: mist netting and banding of shorebirds; staffed spotting scopes at locations where there are shorebirds present; wood carver demonstration; Brian Harrington, expert birding, author of "The Flight of the Red Knot", making a presentation about shorebirds and WHSRN; guided marshland hayride; display of Missouri Junior Duck Stamp Artwork; and unveiling of the WHSRN sign. Mound City has proclaimed

May 12 as a "Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Shorebird Site of Regional Importance".

Drawdowns

Pool and moist soil unit drawdowns are on schedule with a large number and variety of shorebirds present this spring. The largest drawdown is the 900 acre Eagle Pool. It has not been dry since 1994 and there was a need to re-establish emergent vegetation that has disappeared in the past 10 years. This large mud flat has been attracting a large number of shorebirds as well as white pelicans, egrets and herons in the trapped water areas. All of the other draw downs have been attracting shorebirds as well.

Jessica Lee

Jessica Lee, native of Minnesota and successful Masters Degree recipient, started her one year appointment at Squaw Creek April 30. She will be primarily assisting Refuge Biologist Frank Durbian but will also be learning about and assisting in other aspects of management. The next time you visit the refuge, please be sure to welcome her. She worked last summer at Big Muddy NFWR while going to graduate school.

FLOOD REPORT

Northwest Missouri received more than 7 inches of rain in approximately 24 hours May 5 & 6. Several river and creek levees broke north of the Refuge causing water to flow into the north end of the Refuge. Davis and Squaw Creek overtopped the banks within the Refuge. This brought in a large amount of sediment and trash into nearly every pool. The auto tour route was closed from May 6 until the 16th due to several washouts and loss of road gravel. There was significant damage along the Davis Creek portion of the auto tour route and at

the north end of Pelican Pool. Three water control structures washed out including on Bluff Pool, Moist Soil Unit #4 and the North Woods. In addition, the Porter Creek Spillway (just west of the pump house) washed out and one section of the road through the north woods. There was some dike damage on Teal Pool. The Refuge was spared extensive damage since the 900 acre Eagle Pool and many of the smaller pools and moist soil units had been in draw down with very low water levels. If they would have been at full pool, there would have been a greater amount of damage. Chip Lehmer and Daryl Walker have done an outstanding job the past two weeks repairing damage and getting the auto tour route open.

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

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