



FRIENDS OF SQUAW CREEK REPORTER Mound City, Missouri

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**Winter 2006**  
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**Volume 7 Number 4**  
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SQUAW CREEK CALENDAR:

Eagle Days **December 2 - 3**
Annual Meeting **January 20**

VISITOR OFFICE COMMITTEE

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

REFUGE WETLAND COMMITTEE

Vic Miles 816-444-2459

EAGLE DAYS COMMITTEE

Jeanine Montgomery 660-935-2254

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 February 15.

DUES RENEWAL TIME

Time to renew dues. Check your mailing label. If it shows 01/07 ore earlier, then it is time to send in your renewal. You may use the form on the cover. Note the 2-year and senior rates that are now available.

Water levels are good and Snow Geese are arriving to add to the Snow Geese already present. Counts on November 16th were-

Snow Geese - 46,000
Ducks- 230,000
Eagles- 14

Plan to visit to observe the Waterfowl.

The Refuge & Friends of Squaw Creek are pleased to announce that during Eagle Days, the huge Eagle will be on the front lawn and a comprehensive display of Ding Darling art will be at the Refuge at that time also. This is a traveling display and we are pleased to be able to show this display during Eagle Days.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of Squaw Creek Annual Meeting will be held in the auditorium at 1 pm on January 20, 2007. All members are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. There will be a Friends Board Meeting that morning at 10 am.

EAGLE DAYS

Eagle Days is December 2 & 3. The Friends of Squaw Creek will be selling food in the 3 stall garage and I am sure we will need assistance in working the food booth. Please call Jeannine Montgomery at 660-935-2254 if you can help. All profits return to Squaw Creek Refuge.

The Midland Empire Audubon Society will be selling bird seed and a variety of bird related items. Some of the activities going on include the live eagle show given by the World Bird Sanctuary. This year they will be bringing an adult bald eagle, adult golden eagle and a wedge-tailed eagle from Australia. There will be numerous displays about eagles in the auditorium and the Missouri Department of Conservation will be giving out the free Eagle Day print to each family.

The Refuge will be making buttons and tattooing those who are interested. A wood carver will be demon-

strating his skills in making birds. The 25 foot American Bald Eagle will again grace the front of the headquarters thanks to donations from the Eagle Nest Truck Plaza, Midland Empire Audubon Society, Mound City Chamber of Commerce and the Mound City Kiwanis Club. The Truck Plaza will again permit visitors to park in the vacant lot off of Interstate 29 and the Mound City Chamber of Commerce will be staffing buses down to the headquarters. The Refuge staff will be giving guided bus tours around the refuge to visitors.

There will be 2 different activities this year. Jim Rathert, retired photographer from the Missouri Department of Conservation, will be autographing some of his outstanding wildlife photos that will be for sale. In addition, there will be a display of some of Ding Darling's selected cartoons. He was a pioneering conservationist and nationally recognized political cartoonist. He was also appointed chief of the U.S. Biological Survey, predecessor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and produced the very first Duck Stamp. If you have never attended this event, this is one you won't want to miss.

REFUGE BANNERS

Squaw Creek partnered with the Mound City Chamber of Commerce and the City of Mound City to develop and to erect banners along main street in Mound City. The City will be celebrating 150 years in 2007 and wanted to showcase the town and Squaw Creek. A series of three banners were made by the Service's Regional Sign Shop and have been installed downtown in October. They will be up until the end of 2007. Be sure to visit Mound City the next time and look at the banners.

FALL MIGRATION & HABITAT CONDITIONS

The fall migration has been spectacular so far with nearly 200,000 ducks present November 6. The snow geese and bald eagles are just beginning to arrive. We hope that above freezing temperatures persist through Eagle Days so that the waterfowl will hang around until at least early December. The wetland conditions are the best they have been in several years with

nearly all marshes and pools containing water. There are more than 3,500 acres of water. Both Eagle and Pelican Pools are below full pool but still contain water levels attracting waterfowl. Flooding will continue until freeze-up.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PICNIC

A volunteer recognition picnic was held October 14 to thank all those who volunteered at the refuge in 2006. More than 100 individuals contributed this year but only 18 attended the event. Nate Petersen was selected as the Volunteer of the Year. He worked all summer assisting in the biological research projects contributing 491 hours.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

A special dedication was held October 14 for the completion of the outdoor classroom. The building was dedicated to George L. Scheil, long time refuge volunteer and past President of the Friends of Squaw Creek. George was responsible for securing a grant from Senator Christopher Kit Bond that paid for the addition of auditorium on the headquarters building and for the outdoor classroom. George has always been interested in environmental education and interpretation for school children and we felt it would be appropriate to dedicate the building to his long term commitment to Squaw Creek and education. Regional Refuge Chief Nita Fuller was unable to attend but sent a letter thanking George for his dedication and interest in Squaw Creek.

October 14th - Activities

Even the pelicans took some time over the weekend to help the Refuge celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week. First, at 10AM the Friend's Directors met and elected Vic Miles as President and Amanda Griffin as a director. Next, at 12 noon, the Refuge hosted the annual volunteers luncheon, catered by the 'Klub' in Mound City. At 2 PM the new Outdoor Classroom was dedicated. It was a surprise when Ron Bell unveiled a sign on the building, named to honor George Scheil, longtime president of Friends of Squaw Creek. The building will be used primarily as

a teaching facility for groups of young visitors. There remains much more to do, to furnish needed equipment for students use. If you have internet capability, there is a list of items needed. Visit the web site of Friends of Squaw Creek - www.SquawCreek.org to view such list. Your donation for such items is tax-deductible and your donation should be sent to Mr. Charles Clodfelter, P.O. Box 244, Mound City, MO. 64470. Any donation you make will be greatly appreciated by children who make use of the classroom.

The list of items follows below. You may designate specific items or make a general donation.

CLASSROOM ITEM LIST

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>
Microscopes	\$479.92
Children's Binoculars	1,280.00
Adult Binoculars	320.00
Tel. Pond Nets	200.00
Pond Nets	80.00
Specimen Tanks #118	54.45
Specimen Tanks #119	Donated
Bug Boxes #99	Donated
Bug Boxes #100	Donated
Pocket Guides	385.56
Magnifiers #511b	87.50
Magnifiers #511d	170.00
Owl Pellets #400a	97.50
Owl Pellets #400d	142.50
Economy Forceps/Tweezers	50.00
Poison Ivy Display	35.95
Aquatic Insect Display	79.95
Projector LP70+	1,399.00
Pull Down Screen 76"	165.00
Transport Case	49.00
Winter Park Backpacks	129.75

BIG SIT

The Midland Empire Audubon Society held their 3rd Big Sit event on the Davis Creek Observation Tower October 8. This is annual international event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest. Twenty-four participated and observed 61 species. Forty-nine species were observed in 2004 and 51 in 2005.

REFUGE WEBSITE

Biologist Frank Durbian spent a week at the Service's National Conservation and Training Center in West Virginia during the summer attending a website development course. As a result, he installed a new Refuge website that includes the weekly waterfowl survey, bald eagle count, shorebird survey, refuge activities and events, the refuge bird list and a variety of other topics including a link to the Friends of Squaw Creek website. If you haven't taken the time to visit the site, it can be found on <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek>.

Fall Shorebird Avian Influenza Sampling

This fall the Refuge assisted the USDA with shorebird sampling for potential avian influenza. Refuge Wildlife Biologist Frank Durbian assisted USDA Wildlife Disease Biologist, Tom Hutton with the capture of shorebirds for disease sampling. They captured, sampled and released 14 least sandpipers, 14 lesser yellowlegs, 9 pectoral sandpipers, 6 solitary sandpipers, 2 Wilson's snipe, and 1 sora rail. The results are not yet available for these birds but to date no highly pathenogenic avian influenza has been detected in any birds from the United States.

Fall Refuge Deer Survey

All four Refuge Deer Spotlight Surveys have been completed. These counts are conducted annually by Refuge Wildlife Biologist Frank Durbian with assistance from Refuge Manager Ron Bell, Wildlife Refuge Specialist Corey Kudrna, and volunteers from Missouri Western State College and Northwest Missouri State University. Although a detailed analysis has not been completed the Refuge still appears to harbor a quality deer herd with densities much higher than appropriate for this region of the state.