



FRIENDS OF SQUAW CREEK REPORTER Mound City, Missouri

Winter 2007

Volume 8 Number 4

SQUAW CREEK CALENDAR:

Eagle Days: December 1 - 2
Christmas Bird Count: December 18
Friends' Annual Meeting January 26

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.

Visit our website at www.squawcreek.org for recent bird surveys, events, etc.

If your mailing label does not have a date of January, 2009, or later, membership dues are in order. Please use the form on the back page of this issue.

Remember to buy your Migratory Bird and Conservation (Duck) Stamps. They are not just for hunters. The money goes toward the purchase of wetlands and wildlife habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Over

\$700 million has been spent to date for the preservation of some five million acres of American wetlands. The stamps are currently \$15 and can be purchased at the Refuge.

We will be needing help for Eagle Days, December 1-2, especially on Sunday. Our new co-ordinator, Amanda Griffin, will be needing extra help. A lot of food, donations, equipment, etc. must be arranged well before December. Give her a call at 660-572-0267 or send her an e-mail at amandadawngriffin@hotmail.com.

We need a total of over 20 volunteers to operate the food booth and bookstore on Saturday and Sunday. We could also use a couple of people on Friday to help set up. On Saturday and Sunday we need 5-6 people on duty in the food booth all day and 4 in the bookstore. Please let her know what day(s) and times you can help, including the "regulars," since the Sunday crew evaporated last year without anyone realizing it. Although the McCulloughs will again be leading the efforts in the bookstore, Amanda can be the common contact person for scheduling food booth or bookstore times.

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.

The November issue of the Missouri Conservationist has a nice article on page 13 about Eagle Days. MDC gave the refuge and the Friends a good plug.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Friends will be held January 26th, 2008, at 1 pm in the Refuge Auditorium. Refreshments will be served. The directors will meet immediately after the annual meeting.

JUNIOR NATURALIST PROGRAM

A Junior Naturalist Program was initiated at Squaw Creek this summer. It was planned, organized and initiated by Biological Science Aid (and Friends Board Member) Amanda Griffin. The program was geared toward educating and entertaining grade school age children. It provided an opportunity to not only reach out to young people within the local area but also give them something to do this summer, get them away from the electronic games and get them into the outdoors. This is also a major thrust by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The programs were held every Thursday evening starting at 7:00 p.m. either at the refuge headquarters or at the George L. Scheil Outdoor Classroom beginning June 28 and ending September 27. There were 16 classes/events with a total of 394 participants..

The average attendance each week was approximately 25. Twenty-two of the children signed up and completed the program.

Some of the classes included topics on the marsh, woodland, scavengers, reptiles, seeds, soils, birds, beaver and insects. In mid-September, the group captured and tagged monarch butterflies. On October 9, many of the children, including their parents, were treated to the "Call of the Wild" program given by Ralph Duren, a retired Missouri Department of Conservation employee, who learned how to make animal sounds with his mouth. It was very entertaining and educational. This program was paid for by the Friends of Squaw Creek as well as the Midland Empire Audubon Society, Burroughs Audubon Society, Mound City Chamber of Commerce and Mound City Kiwanis. We want to have Amanda continue the Junior Naturalist Program next summer.

EAGLE DAYS - DECEMBER 1 & 2

The 29th annual Eagle Days will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 1 & 2 sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. We presently have 13 other Fish and Wildlife Service employees that will be helping the 7 Squaw Creek staff members. This year, Region 3 Regional Director Robyn Thorson has promised to make her first visit to Squaw Creek during Eagle Days. In addition, there has been some interest from the Washington Office regarding the potential for someone from the Department of the Interior to attend. This is pending but you never know! The Ioway Tribe will permit us to park vehicles on their property at Exit 79 of Interstate 29 as in the past years so we can shuttle visitors to the

headquarters. In addition, the 25 foot American Eagle will be at the headquarters paid for by the Ioway Tribe. The World Bird Sanctuary will again be bringing 3 eagles for the live show but will also be on "Live at 5", KQ-2 St. Joseph television station on Thursday, November 29. School day will be Friday, November 30 with approximately 600-800 students from 16 schools. The Friends of Squaw Creek will have a food booth. Amanda Griffin has volunteered to coordinate this effort taking over from Jeanine Montgomery, who ran the booth the previous 5 years. Please think about volunteering to help because all of the profit benefits Squaw Creek Refuge. We will be making buttons, putting on tattoos, giving bus tours and "Puddles" will make an appearance during the day.

HABITAT CONDITIONS

Habitat conditions are excellent for the fall migration with many moist soil units and pools loaded with wild millet, smartweed and other food for the ducks and geese. As of the end of October, more than 3,000 acres have been flooded and over 143,000 ducks (13 species) were present. Snow geese, white-fronted geese and bald eagles were also beginning to arrive. This is the earliest that this number of ducks have stopped in many years but we hope this is not a sign of an early winter. We hope to have open water (and not ice) for Eagle Days in order to have as many ducks, geese and eagles present so visitors can enjoy the migration.

AUTO TOUR ROUTE PULL OFFS - KIOSKS - BOARDWALK

The 6 pull offs on the auto tour route have become a reality. Each pull off contains a bench, interpretive sign and scope sitting on a concrete

slab. We are still waiting for 2 scopes to arrive but should be here any day. We have been putting gravel around each site for visitors to park. We have begun to put interpretive signs on the 4 kiosks but are still waiting for the rest of the signs to be delivered. Materials for the boardwalk will be shipped the first week of November but we probably won't start building until this spring or summer. Hopefully, it will be completed by next fall.

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

**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**

**Director & Vice-President - George L. Scheil, 9718 East
53rd St., Raytown, MO 64133 glSch2@comcast.net**

**Director - Amanda Griffin, 302 Mill St., Mound City,
MO 64470 amandadawngriffin@hotmail.com**

**Director - David Norwood, 6515 Jefferson, Kansas City,
MO 64113**

**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**

**President - Vic Miles, 5917 Wornall, Kansas City, MO
64113 vicmiles@juno.com**

Newsletter Editor & Director- George W. Scheil, 7311
Ditzler, Kansas City, MO 64133 gwsch@juno.com

FRIENDS OF SQUAW CREEK NWR			
Friends of Squaw Creek is a tax-exempt organization & appreciate your membership and donations.			
PLEASE PRINT :			
NAME: _____			
ADDRESS: _____			
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____			
PHONE: _____			
E-MAIL: _____			
Membership Category:		1 yr	2 yr
_____ Student(all)		\$5	
_____ Senior (62+)		\$10	15
_____ Individual		\$15	25
_____ Family		\$25	40
_____ Business Friend		\$50-\$199	
_____ Patron		\$200-\$500	
_____ Lifetime		\$750.00	
Send form and your remittance to:			
Treasurer			
P O Box 244			
Mound City, MO 64470			