



FRIENDS OF SQUAW CREEK REPORTER Mound City, Missouri

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**Winter 2008**  
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**Volume 9 Number 4**  
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SQUAW CREEK CALENDAR:

- December 5** **Eagle Days School tours**
- December 6-7** **Eagle Days**
- January 24, 2009** **Annual Meeting**
- February 28, March 21, April 4, May 2**
 Refuge Habitat Workdays
- March 14 - May 2** **Refuge Office Open on Weekends**
- April 25** **Volunteer Workday**

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.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 Friends Annual Meeting will be January 24th at 1 pm at Refuge headquarters. Refreshments will be served. All members are welcome to attend. There will be a Board meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Eagle Days Chili Booth – Help Wanted

Last year's chili booth fundraiser was a great success due to volunteer's huge response. Friend's members were able to donate both time and yummy baked goods to help us gather additional funds to support the various projects we have within the refuge. With any luck, this year's weather will be less daunting than 2007 and our visitor count will be even greater. More visitors mean more fund-raising opportunity and more food. If you are looking for a way to become further involved with our organization and get to know your fellow 'Friends' please consider joining us on either the 6th or 7th as we cook up a good time and hand out food. If your schedule can't hold one more appointment we understand and will always accept cookies – LOL... Please call me with any questions you might have and whatever you do, Remember to enjoy this year's fall migration!

Amanda Griffin
(660) 572-0267

We had a wonderful day on October 18th. We had our Director's meeting and the Volunteer Luncheon, catered by the 'KLUB' in Mound City. We also viewed the nearly completed Board Walk.

During the Board meeting, we discussed finishing the interior of the 'Classroom in the outdoors'. The classroom has had many activities in the past & since it has only bare interior walls & ceiling, it needs insulation & sheet rock to cover the studs & steel exterior, to make it more usable in cold & hot weather.

Friends of Squaw Creek do not have sufficient funds for this project which will cost almost \$10,000. We will need donations from our members & you are urged to consider making a donation. Donations should be sent to:

Treasurer
Friends of Squaw Creek
401 West 58th Terrace
Kansas City, MO., 64113-1269

George L. Scheil

WEATHER

We've had some this summer! June was the 8th wettest June on record with rain recorded nearly every other day. A total of 8.71 inches was recorded - more than 3 ½ inches above normal. The reverse happened in July and August when only 2.33 inches of rain fell during those 2 months compared to the normal 7.3 inches. August was the driest in 7 years. The heavens opened up again in September and October. September was the wettest in 7 years and October was the 5th wettest on record. Total precipitation for September and October was 11.46 inches compared to the long term average of 6.77 inches. Despite these extreme conditions, habitat management in the wetlands was accomplished

during the summer and the fall rain has made excellent moist soil conditions for the fall waterfowl migration.

FALL WATERFOWL MIGRATION

The fall migration began in early September with more than 12,000 ducks counted the 22nd. By mid-October a few white-fronted geese began to appear with the more than 40,000 ducks. Snow Geese began to arrive in early November and by the 10th, 30,000 snow geese and 155,000 ducks were counted. I anticipate the number of snow geese will continue to increase daily as the weather in Canada and the Dakota's gets colder.

BALD EAGLES

A pair of bald eagles are building a new nest in a new location. After the nest blew down with the 2 young this spring, the pair seemed to move away though a bird was seen occasionally throughout the summer. However, about 2 weeks ago, a pair of adults were seen carrying sticks and a new nest is now visible. It is located in the woods at the far south end of Pintail Pool south of the previous nest. It is adjacent to the Squaw Creek ditch and just across the ditch from the auto tour route. It should provide some good viewing this winter and spring.

2008 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

The refuge selected the youth from the McKnight Road Church of Christ as the volunteers of the year. This group spent a week in mid-July assisting the refuge staff building the boardwalk. The group had contacted the Region about one year ago to find an environmental project. We had just purchased the materials for the project and had planned to build it with the staff, YCC and any other volunteers we could recruit. The group of 9 youth and 3 adults arrived on a Sunday night and spent the entire week working on the boardwalk. They stayed at Big Lake State Park. They contributed more than 270 hours. The

boardwalk was officially dedicated on October 18 at the volunteer recognition picnic. Future plans are to add a bench at the platform and scope.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK EVENTS

A variety of events were held just prior to and during National Wildlife Refuge Week this year. The Falls City Middle School held an environmental education field day October 8. The students were split up into small groups and rotated to 6 different instructors at various locations around the refuge. Topics included endangered species, the loess hills, migration, birds of prey, snakes and wetland management. Approximately 90 students participated in the all day event. The 5-K Run/Walk was held the 11th. A total of nearly 40 runners and walkers participated in nearly ideal conditions. All participants received ribbons, certificates and the top three runners in each category received medals. The Volunteer Recognition Picnic was held the 18th at the George L. Scheil Outdoor Classroom. Forty-five attendees were treated to a lunch and certificates and pins were awarded. The Big Sit was completed the 12th with 12 official "sitters". A total of 39 species were recorded. This was the 5th consecutive year for this event.

JUNIOR NATURALIST/SPOTLIGHT ON LITERACY PROGRAMS

The second annual Junior Naturalist Program was completed August 28. It was developed and taught by Friends of Squaw Creek member Amanda Griffin. During the 14 week program, a total of 281 youth (4-14 years old) and 116 adults participated. In addition 56 youth and 20 adults also attended 2 summer reading program events at the refuge. This was a cooperative effort with the Mound City Library. The Spotlight on Literacy Program was a cooperative effort with the Mound City Library and the Mound City elementary school. Approximately 200 attended the 6

sessions. Students were bussed at the end of the school day to the refuge every Thursday and were taught by Amanda with assistance from Cindy Grant, Mound City Librarian.

FALL INTERNS

Two fall interns from Missouri Western State University have been giving programs, talking with visitors and making contacts on the auto tour route each Saturday and Sunday during the fall open house weekends. They received small stipends paid for by the Burroughs Audubon and Midland Empire Audubon Societies. This has been a great program and we hope to continue next spring. The Friends sponsored 2 interns in the spring.

EAGLE DAYS - DECEMBER 6 & 7

This will be the 30th consecutive year for this great event - a cooperative program with the Missouri Department of Conservation. School Day will be Friday, December 5. The Friends will be serving food and will probably need help in the food booth. Amanda Griffin has been making arrangements for food and donations. The World Bird Sanctuary, St. Louis, will be bringing the live birds. There will be several new displays. Puddles, the Service mascot, will be present as well as the 25 foot inflatable eagle. We hope the weather will be better than last year.

Ron Bell

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

Directors and Officers of Friends of Squaw Creek
National Wildlife Refuge

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FRIENDS OF SQUAW CREEK NWR

Friends of Squaw Creek is a tax-exempt organization
& appreciate your membership and donations.

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NAME: _____

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CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

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Membership Category:	1 yr	2 yr
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_____ Senior (62+)	\$10	15
_____ Individual	\$15	25
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_____ Business Friend	\$50-\$199	
_____ Patron	\$200-\$500	
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Send form and your remittance to:

Treasurer
P O Box 244
Mound City, MO 64470