

Friends of Carolina Sandhills NWR

Dr. William Alexander—
President
Josh Arrants—Vice
President
Cissy Alexander—Treasurer
Allison Latham—Secretary
David Robinson—At Large
Board Member
Lyne Askins — Refuge
Manager & Friends liaison



Sandhills Refuge News

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service Launches “Let’s Go Outside” Campaign

Calendar of Events

Friends Meeting: White-tailed Deer in the Pee Dee, SCDNR, Refuge HQ (F)	9/25 6:30 PM
National Hunting & Fishing Day Festival, Styx Fish Hatchery, Columbia, SC (V)	10/4 9:00 AM
* National Wildlife Refuge Week	10/11 - 10/18
Birds, Butterflies & Blooms Nature Walk Refuge HQ (F)	10/18 9:00 AM
Working for Wildlife Volunteer Day, Refuge HQ (F & V)	12/13 9:00 AM
Christmas Bird Count (V)	12/14 TBA
Friends Board of Directors Meeting, Refuge HQ (F)	Dec. TBA
Friends Annual Meeting & Covered Dish Supper: Status of Migratory Birds in the SE, John Stanton, FWS Refuge HQ (F)	1/22 6:30 PM
Night Prowl (F)	2/13 TBA

(V) - Volunteers Needed
(F) - Friends Event

(Hunting Calendar on Page 2)

*For more information, visit www.refuges.fws.gov and view Special Events link for details.

In 2007, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced six top priorities for the Service. One of these top priorities is to connect people with nature in an effort to ensure the future of conservation. With a land base encompassing more than 97 million acres in the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Service is an excellent resource to provide outdoor experiences combining the values of natural resource conservation, environmental quality and human health. The motto for the Service's initiative is *Let's Go Outside!*

The *Let's Go Outside!* initiative stems from a summit with Richard Louv, author of *"Last Child in the Woods - Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder."* Information shows the American people, especially children, are spending less time involved in outdoor recreational activities than any previous generation. ***Nature is important to children's development - intellectually, emotionally, socially, spiritually and physically; and research indicates as children's connection to and time spent with nature has diminished, childhood ailments and medical problems have vastly increased. Even the simple***

activity of playing outside helps children develop better motor skills, physical fitness and general health, and can create a life-long appreciation for healthy, outdoor activities and the environment.

The National Wildlife Refuge System provides many public use opportunities for all Americans, especially children, to forge a connection with nature. These include programs activities such as hunting, fishing, observing and photographing wildlife, or simply exploring and discovering nature on refuges or creating schoolyard habitats to bring nature to children.

This fall, the refuge has several outdoor activities planned beginning with National Hunting and Fishing Day at the Cohen Campbell “Styx” Fish Hatchery near Columbia. This annual event provides hands-on opportunities for children to connect with nature and outdoor hobbies. Interactive booths include laser shooting, laser fishing, lure making, cooking and cleaning fish, rock climbing, canoeing, boating safety, and our own booth: animal track casting. Approximately 1,000 children attend this event. If you enjoy sharing your enthusiasm for the ref-

uge with others and want to experience the “sparkle” in a child’s eye when “that” connection is made, I hope that you will consider volunteering your time.

In October, the Friends will host a nature walk event featuring fall wildflowers, butterflies and migratory birds. For this event, I would like to challenge each Friend who attends to bring a child with them – a grandchild or neighborhood friend. Each child that attends will receive a *Let's Go Outside* sport sack filled with items that will help them explore in the outdoors, such as binoculars, magnifying glass, and a pocket bird identification guide.

Our final fall event is the annual “Working for Wildlife” refuge workday held in conjunction with the SC Wildlife Federation. There is nothing more rewarding than sweat equity, especially for connecting children with nature. There will be work projects available for both children and adults. All volunteers that attend this event held on Saturday, December 13 will receive a *Let's Go Outside* baseball cap and children will receive a special prize.

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Finally, I may be calling upon individual members of the Friends organization with special talents to help with children’s programs this fall. We periodically receive requests from scout groups, school classes, and other organizations to host outdoor classrooms. I hope that you will consider volunteering your time for these endeavors. For more information or to volunteer, please call me at my office (843/335-6023) or e-mail me allyne_askins@fws.gov. Now, let’s go outside and have some fun!

Lyne Askins,
Refuge Manager
(with excerpts from
www.fws.gov)

Calendar of Events (continued)

Species	Dates
Mourning Dove	Thursdays in September
Deer—Archery	10/6-11; 12/8-13 and 12/15-20
Deer—Youth	10/18
Deer—Primitive Weapons	10/24-25 and 10/31-11/1
Deer—Modern Gun	11/7-8, 11/14-15, and 11/21-22
Quail	Wednesdays & Fridays of state season
Rabbit	Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays in January
Raccoon & Opossum	2/1-10/09
Wild Turkey—Youth	3/28/09
Wild Turkey Quota Hunts	4/2-4 and 4/9-11/09 (application deadline 3/1/09)

Photo Blind Dedicated to Refuge Volunteer

On Thursday evening, April 24, 2008, Dr. Bill Alexander thought he would be showing a slideshow to the Friends organization from his trip to Alaska. Little did he know that the refuge had planned a surprise dedication ceremony. Dr. Alexander has been a volunteer at Carolina Sandhills NWR for more than 18 years. He has shared his talent and vast knowledge of the outdoor world with staff, students, and visitors. His photography is featured in refuge publications and exhibits.



In 2007, Dr. Alexander helped refuge staff locate and design a new photo blind. He thought of every detail....sun, shade, lens reflection, profile, etc. He worked collaboratively with staff to ensure that the photo blind was “state of the art,” offering excellent wild-life viewing opportunities.

Because of his many hours of volunteer service on the blind project, breeding bird surveys, environmental education, and Friends of Carolina Sandhills NWR, the refuge dedicated the photo blind in his honor. After a ribbon cutting ceremony and unveiling of a bronze plaque, friends and family gathered for reception in the refuge visitor center. After all the excitement, Dr. Alexander shared his images of Alaska, which confirmed his immense talent and dedication to capturing moments of splendor in our natural world.

Let’s Go Outside! Helping Families Connect with Nature

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." - Rachel Carson

Did you know that nature is good for your health? Sharing the outdoors together can build strong family bonds and create life-long memories.

What Can You Do?

- Take a walk along Tate’s Trail
- Lie on your back in your backyard and watch the clouds roll by
- Turn over rocks in a stream and look for critters
- Catch lightning bugs
- Climb a tree
- Fish at May’s Lake
- Draw a picture of a tree and all the animals that live in it
- Picnic at Lake Bee

Whether it is your own backyard, a local community park or at Carolina Sandhills NWR there are lots of outdoor places you can visit. Start by doing something small, and see what happens from there! The possibilities are endless.

From www.fws.gov/children

Logo Contest – the Friends group needs a logo. Sketch your ideas and submit to the Board for consideration. The Board will select a design at their December meeting and unveil to the organization at the annual meeting in January. The winning design will become the official logo for the organization. The winning designer will receive a gift certificate to Burry Bookstore. Happy sketching!