

Friends of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges, Inc.

2013 Board of Directors Election

Saturday, April 6th, 2013 Savannah National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

The terms of five current BOD members expire on April 6th, 2013. The following incumbents have chosen not to seek reelection: **Dave Chafin, John Crawford, Tim Kilty**. The Friends group thanks them for their service and dedication.

The following Friends group members are running to fill the five vacant two-year terms. They are listed in alphabetical order. Below each name is a brief statement from the candidate:

Dot Bambach (Incumbent)(Life Member)

I am running for my third term as a member of the Friends Board of Directors. I have been involved with the Friends since its initial inception; first, as a member of the Organizing Committee, and more recently as Secretary of the Board. My professional background is in corporate finance and management, but I have had a lifelong interest in the environment and conservation that motivates me to find ways to support our national wildlife refuges now that I have retired. I have been an active volunteer at several of our complex's refuges since my arrival in Savannah in 1999, logging several hundred hours a year by conducting bird surveys, monitoring wood stork nesting success, greeting visitors, and assisting with refuge maintenance and up-keep. In addition, I am President and Conservation Chair of Ogeechee Audubon Society and one of the primary field trip leaders for that organization. I believe that the support provided by the Friends will become increasingly important as federal budget reductions place constraints on what full-time refuge staff can accomplish. Our organization will need to expand its capacity to help by reaching out to other conservation groups within the area and enlisting their aid in achieving our goals.

George Cathcart (Life Member)

I am a wildlife and nature photographer living in Bluffton, SC, just two miles from the entrance to Pinckney Island NWR, a perfect location to indulge my photographic passions. The Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges are my back yard. Even though I travel around the world to photograph wildlife, I spend many hours in these refuges and I care deeply about them. I lived here from 1972-84 and was a photographer, writer and editor for the Island Packet for much of that time. I subsequently was director of media relations for Arizona State University and the University of Maryland before finishing my career at NOAA. I joined the Friends when I returned to this area two years ago. Last fall I helped to develop and write a strategic plan to move the Friends group forward. I look forward to working with the board on many issues of importance to the refuges and to support the hard-working refuge staff in their vital mission of managing critical habitat for the great variety of wildlife we are blessed with.

Rick Shields (Incumbent)(Life member)

I have been a volunteer with FWS since 2006 and have been involved with the Friends from the very beginning. I was elected to the Board at our first Membership meeting in 2009 and was re-elected in 2011. I currently serve as webmaster for the Friends website, produce the Friends e-newsletter, and manage The Gator Hole, our book and nature store. I have served as Friends president since 2009, and would like the opportunity to continue on the Board to help complete the Strategic Planning project, develop new projects for the Refuges, expand our reach and message, and develop our future leaders.

Connie Terrell

I am running for the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Savannah Wildlife Refuge Complex. I moved here from Colorado ten years ago and have become involved in the preservation and stewardship of the natural resources in the area. Since late 2007, I have been a volunteer at Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge working with a group of people dedicated to making the refuge a good place for wildlife and visitors alike. My specialty is trash collection. Beginning in 2010 I have been working with a Fish and Wildlife biologist on a Chinese tallow eradication project for the Island. We are in the second year of a grant to aid in this project, and spring planning is in full swing. I have worked in the background of the Friends organization since its inception, doing small jobs. The Friends need many more volunteers who are passionate about this complex and want it to thrive and grow. I would like to be a part of that.

Tracy Toogood

I moved to Rincon, Georgia in the fall of 2009 from the Bahamas where I was active with the Bahamas National Trust organization as well as that country's Ornithology Group. I joined the Friends in March 2010 and became a regular volunteer on Friday mornings at the Visitor Center. I was involved with both the Educational Workshops (Summer VC activities) and the EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) program while attending and receiving a Bachelor's in Visual Communications at SCAD. Specifically, I helped develop the design for the portable EDRR display and several other communications materials including the recent photography contest materials. Although I have had to shorten my time spent at the Visitor Center I endeavor to continue sharing my ideas and talents with the Friends of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges.
