



Scattertown Trail

Looking for elevation and topography? The Scattertown Trail, a 1.75-mile loop, is located in the Bevil's Hill area of the Refuge. It runs along the ridges of the North Central Hills and is one of the Refuge's most scenic trails. Upland hardwoods, shortleaf pine, mockernut hickory and a thick stand of switch cane are some of the plants hikers will

see. The upland hardwood forests and hilly topography make this one of the best places on the Refuge to see fall colors. The views from the top of the ridges into the ravines can be spectacular during both fall and spring. Visitors to this trail should be ready for moderately steep terrain.

Dr. Ray Watson Memorial Trail

This loop trail has been designed with the educator in mind and teaches the hiker about plants through its self-guided stations. The trail is located across the road from the Visitor Center and takes the hiker through a typical pine-hardwood forest. This is not an old climax forest but a second-growth stand that has seeded-in naturally since the creation of the Refuge in 1940. No trees have been planted by man. Before this land became part of the Refuge it was under cultivation. In fact, if one looks closely along the trail, a few elevated rows can still be seen. More recent evidence of human activity is the furrowed fire lines that were plowed by early Refuge personnel to act as fire breaks. Over 30 species of trees, shrubs, and woody vines have been identified along the trail. Each is marked by numbered signs and plant identification markers. There is a trail guide available at the Visitor Center to identify the species of plants by the numbered markers. This trail is dedicated to the memory of Dr. James Ray Watson (1935-2006), retired professor of botany at Mississippi State University. Dr. Watson, who taught dendrology for many years, frequently used the Refuge for outdoor lab sessions with his students.



Cypress Cove Boardwalk

This winding boardwalk is located on Bluff Lake at Doyle Arm. A little over 500 feet in length, this boardwalk allows access to Bluff Lake for fishing, sightseeing, birdwatching, or just a different view. It takes the visitor into a grove of bald cypress on the edge of Bluff Lake and into the domain of the alligators, soft shelled turtles, and other water dwelling creatures. In warm weather the floating logs offer sunning spots for a variety of wildlife. Herons, wood storks, waterfowl, bald eagles, and in winter a large rookery of cormorants are often seen from this vantage point. This boardwalk is wheelchair accessible.



Webster Memorial Oak Grove and Overlook

This trail leads to our two-story overlook offering a lower level that has a wheelchair accessible ramp as well as an upper level accessible by stairs. The viewing platform is roofed and offers a wonderful scene of Loakfoma Lake. Year-round there is something to see from this vantage point; bald eagles, alligators, deer, and wading birds. The tower is located near the Refuge's visitor center with its trail originating across from the visitor center front doors. The oak grove is named for Burton Webster, refuge manager from 1948 to 1972.



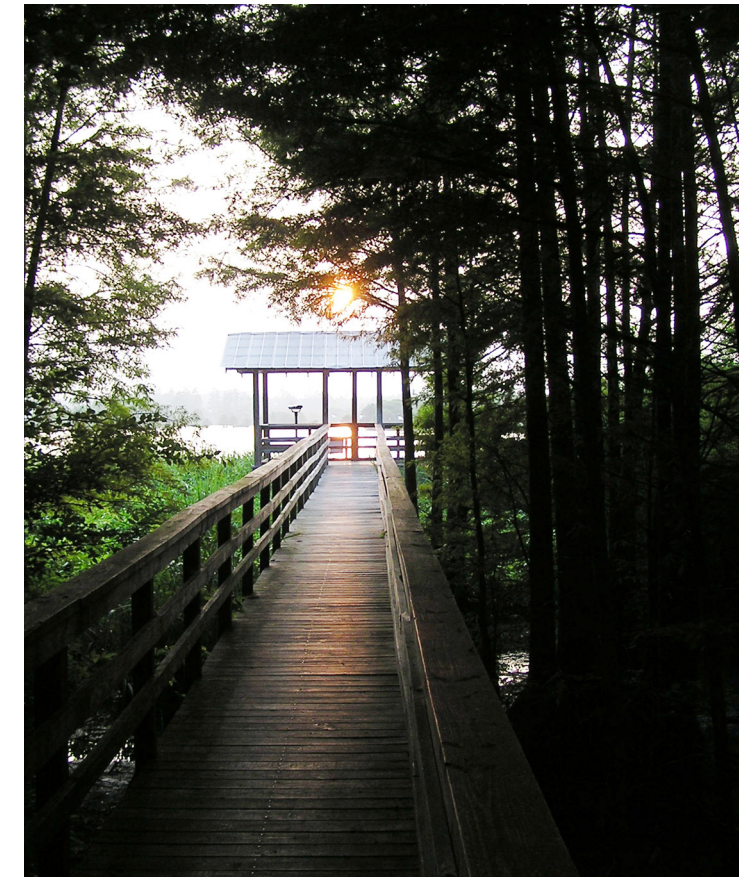
Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge
13723 Bluff Lake Road
Brooksville, MS 39739
662/323 5548
www.fws.gov/refuge/noxubee

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

November 2019



Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee *National Wildlife Refuge Trail Guide*



Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge Trail Brochure

Summary of Named Trails

Trail Name	Length	Difficulty
Woodpecker Trail	0.5 miles	Moderate
Beaver Dam Trail	1.7 miles	Moderate
Bluff Lake Boardwalk	0.2 miles	Easy
Morgan Hill Prairie Trail and Overlook	0.4 miles	Moderate
Noxubee Wilderness Area	No defined trail	Difficult (it's wilderness!)
Scattertown Trail	1.75 miles	Moderate to Difficult
Dr. Ray Watson Memorial Trail	0.75 miles	Moderate
Cypress Cove Recreational Boardwalk	0.1 miles	Easy
Webster Memorial Oak Grove and Overlook	0.1 miles	Easy



General Trail Regulations

Refuge trails are open during daylight hours. The refuge is closed after dark. During winter and spring some trails may be under water during flood events. Trails are not wheelchair accessible unless otherwise stated.

Pets are allowed on trails as long as they are on a leash. This regulation is for the safety of your pet as well as the wildlife. Alligators are present in refuge waters. Bicycles are allowed on refuge roads in open areas. Bicycles are prohibited on earthen foot-trails and boardwalks.

Horses and ATVs are not allowed anywhere on refuge controlled lands or roads.

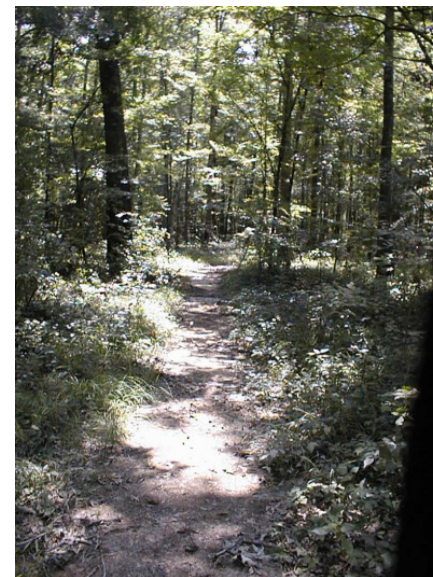
Some trails are within the hunting areas of the Refuge, so wearing hunter orange is required during gun seasons. See refuge regulation brochure for map and seasons.



Woodpecker Trail

The trail loops through a mature stand of loblolly pine which houses an active cluster of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. All species of woodpeckers native to the Southeast can be found on this half-mile round-trip trail, located across from the Goose Overlook. If you have only 20 to 30 minutes of time and want to learn

about one of the major management efforts on the refuge, this trail is a good choice. Be sure to notice how open this forest is. This is the result of prescribed burns conducted by Refuge staff to benefit the red-cockaded woodpeckers that prefer open, park-like, stands of older pines. The best time to observe these endangered birds is at sunrise or sunset as they are leaving their cavities to forage or coming in to roost. May is the best month to observe the adults while feeding their young at the cavity. Periodically throughout the trail are informative signs explaining the plants and animals you may find. Near the half-way point of the trail a wooden bench has been placed overlooking Bluff Lake.



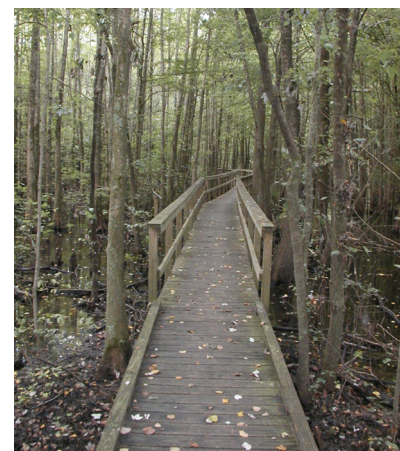
Beaver Dam Trail

This trail follows the historic channel of Oktoc Creek and is a little less than two miles in total length. The trail entrance is near the radial-arm water control structure and spillway on the Bluff Lake levee. Walking this trail you'll travel through bottomland hardwood forest and have a great opportunity to view various species of wildlife such as great blue herons, wood ducks, and even white-

tailed deer. A short distance from the trail is a stand of large bald cypress trees. Do not be surprised if you cannot locate a beaver dam, for this trail's namesake disappeared long ago, although beaver are still commonly seen in the area.

Bluff Lake Boardwalk

Located at the north end of Bluff Lake near the intersection of Bluff Lake Road and River Road, this beautiful boardwalk offers visitors another opportunity to view wildlife from the overwater habitat perspective. The boardwalk winds through the cypress at the edge of Bluff Lake. Just under 1,000 feet long, it makes its way to a roofed overlook on Bluff Lake. This site is known as an excellent place to view birds year-round. During the summer the overlook offers the best view of the Bluff Lake rookery which contains thousands of nesting egrets, herons, and ibis. Spring and fall bring migrating songbirds to the edge of Bluff Lake, and the boardwalk gives some of the best access to these elusive birds. Prothonotary warblers as well as water snakes are a common sight. There are benches along the way to rest and enjoy the sounds of the area or just to stop and watch the birds. The boardwalk is wheelchair accessible.



Morgan Hill Prairie Trail and Overlook

habitat is one of the most endangered habitats in the southeast. This trail offers a small glimpse of what could be if areas like the Black

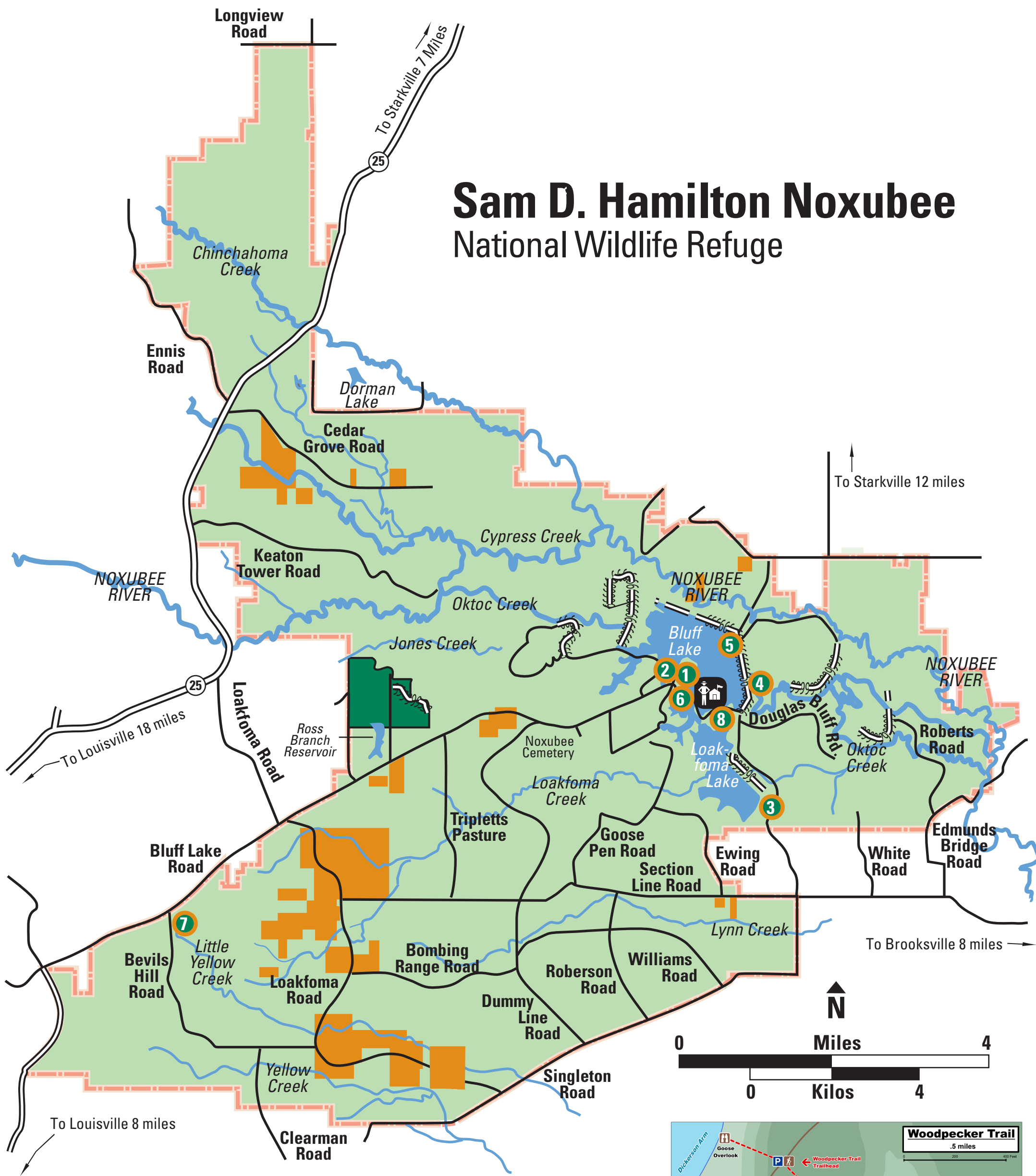
Belt Prairie were restored. From this trail visitors may see a variety of plants and animals including Indian grass, plume grass, white-tailed deer, fox and various species of waterfowl, butterflies and songbirds. Spring and summer are the best seasons to see several varieties of butterflies. Fall wildflower viewing can be spectacular in this grassland habitat. The Morgan Hill Overlook, equipped with a binocular telescope, provides visitors a panoramic vista of 450-acre Loakfoma Lake. Waterfowl on the nearby Loakfoma Lake are best seen in the late evenings of fall and winter.

Noxubee Wilderness Area

In 1972, the Noxubee Wilderness Area was proposed to Congress for Wilderness designation. This 1,200-acre area offers one of the more unique areas on the refuge where large trees and natural processes can be seen. The favored access to the area is located at the end of Keaton Tower road. Hikers are offered a view of the habitat between the Noxubee River and Oktoc Creek where nature reigns and wilderness character abounds. The water's sandy edges offer a chance to see tracks of wild animals such as bobcat, beaver, otter, white-tailed deer and raccoon. Although there is no established or maintained trail, walking is easy in this bottomland hardwood area but requires an advanced skill at orienteering. The mature hardwoods and spectacular root masses from fallen trees make this an area of extraordinary beauty and a rare experience to walk within an area managed in theme with the Wilderness Act.



Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge



- | Legend | |
|--------|---|
| | Refuge Headquarters |
| | Green Tree Reservoir |
| | Non-Refuge Lands |
| | Closed Area (All Entry Prohibited) |
| | Woodpecker Trail |
| | Goose Overlook |
| | Morgan Hill Overlook and Prairie Trail |
| | Beaver Dam Trail |
| | Refuge Boundary |
| | Roads |
| | Levee |
| | Bluff Lake Boardwalk |
| | Cypress Cove Recreational Boardwalk |
| | Scattertown Trail |
| | Dr. Ray Watson and Burton Webster Memorial Trails |

