



Field Trips

Field trips will include opportunities to experience both private and public lands currently associated with nature tourism activities.

February 8 - 12, 2009

The White River National Wildlife Refuge:

Matt Conner, Refuge Ranger, White River National Wildlife Refuge

Dr. Dan Scheiman, Bird Conservation Director, Audubon Arkansas

Matt will share the many resources found on public lands that can broaden a region's nature tourism development efforts. Dan will teach the Basics of Birding while exploring the refuge lands. Binocular use, field id, and basic tools for learning will be discussed. We will also explore trends in birding and why birdwatching is a lucrative experience for you to offer in your agritourism enterprise.

Five Oaks Wildlife Services:

Jody Pagan, Chief Biologist, Five Oaks Wildlife Services

In October of 2005, George H. Dunklin Jr. and Jody Pagan had a vision to start a company that would provide the best possible science based technical assistance in waterfowl and wetland management to private landowners. The goal is to educate landowners and disprove management myths. According to Jody, "We can't control the weather nor can we control the hatch, but we can control the quality of our habitat." Jody will guide us around Five Oaks to showcase his expertise in managing land for wildlife habitat.

Bayou LaGrue Lodge:

Debby & Scott Bowlin, Owners

Debby & Scott Bowlin manage over 200 acres surrounding Bayou LaGrue Lodge. Debby hosts events and hunters at the lodge, and runs a dog training facility on the property. Daryl Jones with The Natural Resource Enterprises (NRE) Program at Mississippi State University educates landowners about sustainable natural resource enterprises and compatible habitat management practices. The field trip at Bayou LaGrue Lodge will focus on how to assess your land to capitalize on existing resources while making an informed decision when considering a nature enterprise.

Fowl Play Lodge:

Thayn & Sally Morton, Owners

Thayn and Sally Morton own Duck Guides, Inc., a family business that was established in 1994, and recently completed construction on Fowl Play Lodge. Students will have the opportunity for a hands-on assessment activity at Fowl Play Lodge, coached by Daryl Jones with the Natural Resource Enterprises Program at Mississippi State University. The assessment will focus on how to assess your land to capitalize on existing resources while making an informed decision when considering a nature enterprise.