

# Cross Creeks

## National Wildlife Refuge

photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



Walter Neasbitt, Refuge Manager  
Cross Creeks NWR  
643 Wildlife Road  
Dover, TN 37058  
Phone: 931/232 7477  
Fax: 931/232 5958  
E-mail: FW4RWCrossCreeks@fws.gov

### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1962.
- Acres: 8,862 (fee title).
- Located in Stewart County, TN.
- Location: the refuge is located 2 miles east of Dover, Tennessee. Travel west on Highway 79 from Clarksville to Dover; turn left on Highway 49, go 2.5 miles then left on Wildlife Road for 1 mile.

### Natural History

- Refuge occupies 12.5 river miles of the middle transition portion of the Cumberland River (Lake Barkley Reservoir) between Cheatham Dam (TN) and Barkley Dam (KY).
- Refuge established as mitigation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Barkley Project.
- Concentrations of geese, ducks, raptors, shorebirds, wading birds, and neo-tropical migratory birds.
- Nesting bald eagles.
- Open water ..... 3,000 acres.
- Wetlands ..... 2,000 acres.
- Woodlands ..... 2,000 acres.
- Croplands ..... 1,200 acres.
- Grasslands ..... 100 acres.
- 240 species of birds.
- 250 species of mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.
- 650 species of plants.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Current staff of five. Full staff allocated is six.
- 45,000 visitors annually.
- FY 04 budget: \$379,600.
- Residents and non-residents generate \$1.8 million in expenditures annually.

- Refuge located in close proximity to the National Recreational Area—U.S. Forest Service Land Between the Lakes, Fort Donelson National Battlefield (NPS), Fort Campbell Military Reservation (DOD), Stewart State Forest, and Barkley Wildlife Management Area.

### Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory birds, especially waterfowl.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered and threatened species—bald eagles, gray bats, Indiana bats, least terns, and peregrine falcons.
- Provide wildlife-oriented recreation for the public.
- Provide environmental education for students, faculty and private sector.

### Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, 16 waterfowl impoundments, and two reservoirs.
- Cooperative farming.
- Force account farming.
- Mechanical/chemical control of noxious plants.
- Banding wood ducks.
- Deer management—public hunting program.
- Fisheries management—sportfishing and research.
- Education/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Research.
- Partnerships.

# Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge

## Public Use Opportunities

- Visitor center.
- Kiosk.
- Boat launching ramps—15 (improved and unimproved).
- 12 miles of gravel road open to public vehicular traffic (open March 6-November 14).
- Sport fishing (open March 16-November 14).
- Hunting—white-tailed deer, resident Canada geese, turkey and squirrels (**no hunting** allowed between November 15-March 15).
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Environmental Education Camp.

## Calendar of Events

**March 16-November 14:** sportfishing.

**April:** National Wildlife Week and spring turkey hunting.

**May:** International Migratory Bird Day.

**June:** Environmental Education Camp.

**August-November:** squirrel hunting.

**September:** River Days Celebration.

**September-November:** archery deer hunting.

**October:** National Wildlife Refuge Week.

**December:** Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Cross Creeks NWR is building an active volunteer program. Currently volunteers assist to improve the refuge's photograph inventory, help with pre-season wood duck banding, Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and assist with the Annual Stewart County Earth Camp. Volunteers who have an interest in assisting the refuge are always welcome. For additional information, contact Sarah Welker at 931/232 7477.

## Questions and Answers

*How many waterfowl winter at Cross Creeks?*

15,000 Canada geese (average 1997-2003) 60,000 ducks.

*How many eagle nests are on the refuge?*

One on the refuge and one adjacent to the refuge. One nest has been active since 1982.

*Are your impoundments and reservoirs open for fishing?*

Yes, March 16-November 14.

*Do you allow hunting?*

Yes, the refuge has an archery deer season to November, a fall squirrel season, and a spring turkey season. The refuge has quota deer hunts on selected weekends. No hunting allowed between November 15 and March 15.

*What recreational activities do you allow?*

Sportfishing, hunting, photography, hiking, wildlife observation, and environmental education.