Library staff heralds arrival of baby ducks

By Marie Rardon

The staff of Thomas Cooper Library proudly wishes to announce the arrival of three new residents of the reflecting pool. They are three mallard ducklings that hatched on June 19.

The pool now serves as the home for one male (drake), two females (hens) and three ducklings, whose sexes cannot be determined at their tender age.

The ducks are domesticated mallards. This means they are not pets, but they won’t leave the pool as long as they are fed.

Ms. Davey-Jo S. Ridge, associate director of libraries and chairman of university facilities and grounds committee, said after an incubation period of 23 days, during which the mother won’t leave the nest for any reason, five ducklings were hatched.

BUT THE drake was very antagonistic toward the ducklings and killed two of them. The drake has since been given a new home. Another drake was left there one weekend this summer by an anonymous donor.

The library staff has taken responsibility for feeding and care of the ducks. Food is provided by the maintenance department.

The adult ducks, which are bottom feeders, are fed whole kernel corn which is thrown into the water. The ducklings are fed a duck mash to ensure they get plenty of vitamins.

FOOD IS placed on the island, recently built by maintenance workers, so the ducklings can find it easily. Maintenance also built a ramp leading out of the water so the ducklings would not be hurt jumping out of the pool.

The library wishes to maintain a pure mallard flock and asks that no other type of ducks be left in the pool.

“If any other breeds are left in the pool they will be removed and found a new home,” Ms. Ridge said. “We do not kill the ducks.”

The library will also maintain a ratio of males to females that will prevent fighting. A mallard drake normally requires four hens and at present there are only two. Because of this only one drake will be allowed to stay in the pool.

If any of the ducklings prove to be drakes they will be given new homes.

MS. RIDGE also asked that people not bring dogs to the reflecting pool. “They upset the ducks and can cause them to injure themselves, or as they have been known to do in the past, the dogs kill them,” she said.

No, I’m not your rubber duckie

This fuzzy trio of baby ducks, the reflection pool’s center attraction, sit cozily for their afternoon naps, attracting passers-by to watch their playful slideshow.

McKissick exhibit to show combat art

The face of war will be depicted in an exhibit of combat art opening July 10 in the art gallery of McKissick Museums.

Twenty paintings and sketches by artists in combat during World War II will comprise the exhibit, open through August 10. The show is part of the more than 4,000-piece Navy combat art collection.

Considered a national treasure, the collection was begun in 1941 and contains works by artists in combat during World War II, the Korean War and the war in Vietnam. Battle scenes and behind the lines sketches are featured in the exhibit.

CO-SPONSORED by the USC Navy Reserve Officers Training Corp, the show will be open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“The works in this exhibit offer a more interpretive view of the events of World War II than the photographic view of those years,” said university art curator Lynn R. Myers.

“These artists have not only recorded the important battles and high military figures, but also the human response of all sorts of people to the experience of war.”

The works of six artists will be shown in the exhibit.

Did you know the Moody Blues are moonlighting in the movie business?

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11:30 a.m. till we close!