

WILD NEWS

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Nature Program Calendar

April - June 2009

Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program – The “Art” Of Conservation



Credit- Jeriel Chalk “Evening Glide” 2008 Best of Show, Colorado

Each year students across America have the opportunity to create spectacular drawings of various waterfowl species and submit them to their Federal Junior Duck Stamp state coordinators for judging. Each state sends the “Best of Show” to the national level for judging and the winning student has their artwork appear on the new stamp. In 2008 more than 400 Colorado students participated in the program. Individuals can also help with conservation by purchasing a stamp for \$5.00 with the proceeds going toward increased funding for wetlands and waterfowl conservation and scholarships for students. In addition, every drawing that is entered translates into another dollar toward environmental education the following year. This year Colorado will

receive an estimated \$900.00. The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is an environmental educational program developed for all public, private, and home-schooled students in grades K-12 to learn more about waterfowl and habitat conservation. It specifically incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum in order to help foster an active awareness of the critical need to protect, preserve and enhance our wetland habitat for waterfowl, migratory songbirds, and the hundreds of other plants and animals that depend on wetlands for their survival. Creating the artwork is a valuable learning experience that ties together lessons on animal form and function, plant science, observation, and wetland habitats. As a result, this program continues to make a positive difference in the lives of both kids and wildlife. Judging for Colorado entries will be held in March 2009 and awards will be presented in May. For additional details on how to become more involved contact Seth Beres, Colorado coordinator, at (303) 289-0867 or visit the national website at <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/ArtContest.htm>.

Give Back To Others — Become a Refuge Volunteer!
Contact Jamie Lanier at (303) 289-0868 or Jamie_Lanier@fws.gov

New and Expanded Programs — PLEASE NOTE our *Visitor Hours* have changed!

TUESDAY TOTS

Offered the first Tuesday of each month from **10:00 – 11:00 am**, this program is for the young naturalist 2 to 5 years old. Parent or guardian must accompany all children. Please call **303-289-0930** for reservations!

Lil' Green Thumbs

Tuesday, April 7

Celebrate Earth Day during this fun and interactive program! Learn all about planet Earth and find out how we can all help protect the environment, then plant a seed and take it home to watch it grow!

Slithering Snakes and Slimy Salamanders

Tuesday, May 5

Bull and tiger? What do these names have to do with reptiles and amphibians? Learn about these unique creatures that live at the Refuge and experience a close encounter with a few of these live critters!



Little Pups on the Prairie

Tuesday, June 2

Prairie dogs are just one of the hundreds of animals that call the Refuge home. Come join us for an interactive program to learn all about these furry creatures and find out how their behavior helps many other animals to survive. Then, learn how prairie dogs communicate and stick around to make your very own animal craft!

Call for more information call 303-289-0930

WILD TREKS PROGRAM

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays

Refuge Hours: 6:00 am – 6:00 pm

Visitor Center Hours: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm



WILD RIDES

Experience the Refuge on this two-hour guided wildlife viewing tour! Reservations are required.

Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Refuge will not offer our WILD RIDES tour on Saturday, May 9. We apologize for the inconvenience.

2009 Fishing Frenzy Kids Derby

Calling all young anglers! Join us on Saturday, August 29 from 8:00 am to noon for an exciting Kids Fishing Derby event. Kids ages 16 and under can try their luck at catching the biggest and smallest fish while learning new angling skills and having lots of fun! Prizes will be awarded in each category and age group. Registration is required for the Kids Fishing Derby and all activities are free. Registration begins April 1st, please call 303-289-3789. Lunch will be provided for a small fee by Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges. Please check our website for additional fishing information, regulations and upcoming events at <http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/fishing/fishing.htm>.



Nature Programs

April – June 2009

Reservations are required for these FREE popular programs. Space is limited. Call 303-289-0930 to register. Please dress for the weather. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Assistance dogs are welcome. Refuge staff reserves the right to cancel or reschedule programs due to unforeseen circumstances.

APRIL

Spring Scenes Photo Tour

Sunday, April 5

8:00 – 11:00 am

Here's your chance to add to your spring photo collection! Grab your camera and zoom lens and capture those unforgettable wildlife and landscape shots.

Scouting for Wildlife

Sunday, April 26

1:00 – 3:30 pm

Calling all scouts! Join us for an action packed afternoon to help you earn your way closer to belt loops, merit badges and patches by learning about birds, wildlife photography and animal art! Space is limited and reservations are required.

Friends of a Feather

Tuesday, April 28

8:00 – 11:00 am

Get a "birds-eye view" on this program. You just might see an American white pelican or a Swainson's hawk on this morning birding expedition. Recommended for adults.

MAY

Birding by Ear

Saturday, May 2

8:00 – 11:00 am

We hear the trills, chirps, and peeps of birds but can't always see them. Learn to identify some of our winged friends by sound during this leisurely stroll through the Refuge prairie and wetlands.

Full Moon Hayride

Saturday, May 9

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Refuge by the light of the moon on this slow, easy hayride.

Mother's Day Bike the Refuge

Sunday, May 10

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Kids of all ages — treat your mom to an afternoon experiencing the great outdoors at the Refuge on this bike ride! Make a keepsake memento to give to mom.

Home on the Range

Saturday, May 23

Sunday, May 24

1:00 – 3:00 pm



See our newest cinnamon-colored members of the Refuge family - bison calves! Discover some interesting facts about North

America's largest land mammal and how they survive on the prairie.

Kids Photo Tour

Saturday, May 30

8:00 – 11:00 am

Kids — here's your chance to learn how to be a wildlife photographer! Join us on this interactive exploration of the Refuge and practice your new photography skills.

JUNE

Family Bike the Refuge

Saturday, June 6

8:00 – 10:00 am

Bring the entire family on a naturalist-led, leisurely bike ride that meanders through prairie dog towns and woodlands and along lake edges. Stops will be made along the way to see and learn about the Refuge's amazing wildlife.



Water, sunscreen, and puncture-proof tires are recommended. Helmets are required.



Prairie Blooms

Tuesday, June 9

Saturday, June 20

9:00 – 11:00 am

Spring is bust'in out all over with wildflowers that create a vivid landscape of color. Join us for this leisurely guided hike to see these magnificent native blooms.

Father's Day Hayride

Sunday, June 21

1:00 -3:00 pm

Get dad out of the house for a relaxing afternoon in nature on this slow, easy hayride. Make a special keepsake to give to dad.

Twilight Photo Tour

Tuesday, June 23

5:00 – 8:00 pm

Explore the Refuge with your camera during this unique twilight opportunity. Capture photos of remarkable summer wildlife and breathtaking views. Bring your camera and zoom lenses.

Animals of the Marsh

Saturday, June 27

1:00 – 3:00 pm



Wander through the marsh with wonder and waders! On this animal search adventure you might get wet discovering the wild residents that live in marshes. Try your hand at some critter trapping techniques.

Waders will be provided.

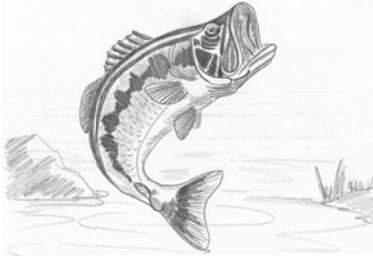
Summer Snap Shots

Sunday, June 28

8:00 – 11:00 am

Photographers — capture some "hot" and "wild" photos for your collection! Pack your camera and zoom lens and head out to the Refuge to get those awesome summer shots.

Are You Ready For Some Fishing?



The 2009 Refuge fishing season is almost here! Mark your calendars for April 18 through October 17 and experience some of the best catch-and-release fishing to be found only 10 minutes from downtown Denver. Soon you can stop dreaming about landing those lunker northern pike and trophy size largemouth bass and get outdoors and fish! Recreational fishing will be offered once again on Lakes Ladora and Mary every Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday from 6:00 am – 5:30 pm. So get your fishing gear ready to go! Anglers must check-in at the Visitor Center kiosk located at the southwest corner of the parking lot to pick-up and sign a copy of the new Fishing Rules and Regulations Permit. All anglers will be required to have their permit in their possession at all times while fishing at the Refuge. Beginning April 11, 2009 the new permits will be available prior to the fishing season at the Visitor Center kiosk or they can be printed from the fishing web page at <http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/fishing/fishing.htm>. Anglers 16 years of age and older are required to have a valid Colorado Fishing License and pay a \$3.00 daily recreational fishing fee. All fees collected stay at the Refuge and go toward improving the fishery and purchasing fishing supplies. By signing the new permit, anglers are responsible for following all of the Refuge fishing rules and regulations.

2009 FREE FISHING DATES

Tuesday June 2 and Saturday June 6 – National Trails and Fishing Week

Saturday September 26 – National Public Lands Day

Saturday October 17 – National Wildlife Refuge Day Celebration



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Wildlife Service
PERMIT G-77

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
Commerce City, CO 80022-1748

DIRECTIONS TO THE REFUGE:

*Enter the Refuge at 56th Avenue and
Havana Street. Proceed 1.5 miles to the
Visitor Center to check-in.*



Visit our website at www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal or call 303-289-0930

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