

RMA WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWS



The Society is pleased to report that the first real-time wildlife observation camera has been installed.

Visitors to the Refuge can observe wildlife activity in the Lake Ladora and Lake Mary areas by panning through the viewing area on a monitor in the Visitor Center. The camera was funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Wild Birds Unlimited, through their Pathways to Nature program. .

The third Bluestem Banquet, held to celebrate the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial and National Wildlife Refuge Week, also honored winners of the high school scholarship contest. The contest is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Shell Oil Company, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corp., Shea Homes, Wells Fargo Bank and the Society.

The top three essays submitted by seniors at Adams City, Montbello, and Brighton High Schools on a designated topic about national wildlife refuges were selected. First place awardees receive a \$1,500 scholarship to the first year of college, second place \$1,000 and third place \$500. The silent auction conducted at the Bluestem Banquet netted additional support for next year's scholarship contest.

As the Society participates in numerous public outreach activities in the metro area, we appreciate the \$3,900 grant awarded last month that will enable us to purchase a sturdy exhibit display. The grant was awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in conjunction with the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Thank-you for your continued support of the Society as we plan new educational projects and programs for the public.

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VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Volunteers are our connection to our neighboring communities. Become a valuable resource and join more than 80 volunteers who contributed 7,600 hours last year to Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers conduct public tours, perform trail and facilities maintenance, assist with wildlife and habitat management projects, and perform clerical and administrative duties. Make a difference by becoming a valuable resource for the Refuge! For more information, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (303) 289-0232



U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service
Rocky Mountain Arsenal
National Wildlife Refuge
Building 111
Commerce City, CO
80022-1748

WILD



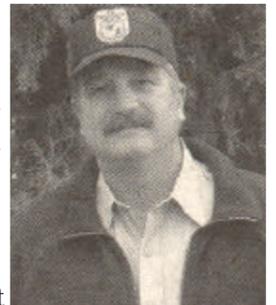
NEWS

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**
<http://rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov>

NATURE PROGRAM CALENDAR
January – March 2004

From The Refuge Manager

2003 - the Centennial year of the National Wildlife Refuge System, was a great year at RMA National Wildlife Refuge. Over 5,000 people participated in the weekend visitor programs and fishing programs were re-established. We had wonderful celebrations of the Refuge System Centennial in March and National Wildlife Refuge Week in October. Our nesting pair of bald eagles successfully fledged another "home-grown" eaglet, and welcome spring moisture brought at least temporary drought relief to all of our wildlife.



The Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Society and Two Ponds Preservation Foundation hosted a great Bluestem Banquet in October, and the Society awarded college scholarships to deserving students from Montbello, Adams City, and Brighton High Schools. Thanks to the Wildlife Society's web cam project, we feed live video of Lake Ladora and its wildlife into the Visitor Center and those real time images are coming to our web site in 2004.

Cleanup progress in 2003 was remarkable. The North Plants and Section 36 Landfill projects were completed and the Western Tier Parcel was deleted from the list of Superfund sites last spring.

Next year will be just as good. We look forward to deletion of another 5000 acres from the RMA Superfund site, land transfer and formal establishment of RMANWR in the coming months. Our biologists are starting new research on the deer herd, and an abundance of exciting Refuge programs will be offered to you. By late summer we expect that remedy will be complete on all but two projects.

I want to thank all of you, and especially our Volunteers and RMA Wildlife Society members for your support. As the holidays approach, I hope we'll also remember all the brave Americans, especially our own Refuge Safety Officer, MSG Chris Young, who are far from home and family this winter - defending our freedom and our way of life. On behalf of your entire refuge staff, I wish you all a great new year and hope to see you on your refuge many times in 2004!

Dean Rundle,
Refuge Manager



JANUARY



Wildlife, Camera, Action!

Saturday January 3 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday January 4 10:00 am-Noon



Photographers rejoice! Pack your camera and lots of film. Keep your eyes peeled for that ideal shot by getting up close and personal with Refuge wildlife! The Refuge's grasslands, woodlands and wetlands provide home for a variety of wildlife. Look for mule deer, majestic raptors, playful prairie dogs, and more! Recommended for serious photographers.

Wildlife Wars

Saturday January 10 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday January 11 10:00 am-Noon

Thirty-two year wildlife law enforcement veteran, **Terry Grosz** will discuss the serious nature of wildlife law enforcement and the problems wildlife faces across the nation. View actual videos and slides taken by undercover officers attempting to hold the line against illegal take and commercial use of wildlife. This program is a must see for anyone interested in wildlife law enforcement. On January 6th, Animal Planet will air a 2-hour special based on cable TV based on stories from three of Terry's five books.

Tour with Refuge Manager

Saturday January 17 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday January 18 10:00 am-Noon

Start off the new year with the latest scoop about the Refuge right from the Manager himself! This is your opportunity to ask questions about what it takes to manage the Refuge, how to become a manager, or to just learn current information about the wildlife and habitat here at the Refuge. Find out what's in store for the Refuge in the future as it transitions from a military installation to a National Wildlife Refuge.

Wildlife Watch

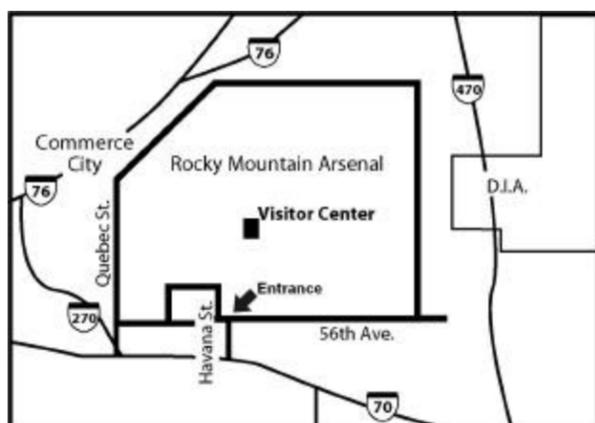
Saturday January 24 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday January 25 10:00 am-Noon

Stop, look, and listen...for wildlife that is! Learn new outdoor skills, how to use binoculars and field guides, sharpen your senses to the sights and sounds in nature, and connect with wildlife! Discover the proper techniques to observe wildlife responsibly through this fun and easy workshop offered by the **Colorado Division of Wildlife**. See flyer insert for more details.

I Spy

Saturday January 31 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday February 1 10:00 am-Noon

During the winter, the seemingly barren stretch of prairie to the west of the Wildlife Watch is full of life. Join us on a mystery exploration and test your observational skills. See if you can spy the tracks, bones, feathers and other animal signs to determine the wildlife that has been there before.



Directions to the Refuge:

Enter the Refuge at 56th Avenue and Havana. Parking is available at the Visitor Center.

FEBRUARY



Friends of a Feather

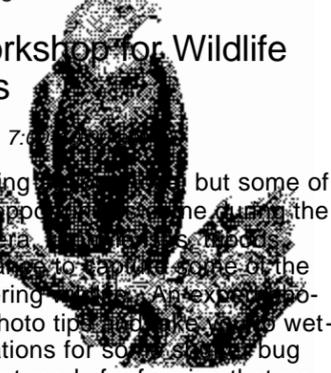
Saturday February 7 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday February 8 10:00 am-Noon

Join the flock and take part in the popular hobby of birdwatching! With an experienced bird guide, observe a host of winter residents including raptors and waterfowl. Bring your binoculars and field guides to help identify the Refuge's winter residents.

Winter Photo Workshop for Wildlife Society Members

Saturday February 14 7:00-9:00 am

Jack Frost may be nipping at your nose, but some of the best Refuge photo opportunities come during the winter! Bring your camera, binoculars, field guides, and lots of film for a chance to snap some of the Refuge's amazing wintering birds. An experienced photographer will provide photo tips and identify wetland and woodland locations for some bird and bug action. Take home a print ready for framing that was taken on the Refuge. Light refreshments will be available. Register early - space is limited! Sponsored by the **Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Society**.



The Masked Weasels

Saturday February 14 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday February 15 10:00 am-Noon

The black-footed ferret once hunted in large prairie dog colonies throughout the West. Today, black-footed ferrets are known to be living only in a small number of mid-western states. Join **Fish and Wildlife Biologist Mike Lockhart** during this fascinating presentation to learn about this intriguing endangered species and what threats they face in the wild. Find out what you can do to help this mammal on the road to recovery.



Scouting for Wildlife

Saturday February 21 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday February 22 10:00 am-Noon

Calling all scouts and leaders! Earn merits toward wildlife and naturalist badges during this guided hike around Lake Mary. Rotate through interactive learning stations that cover mammals, insects, amphibians, and reptiles. Meet a live raptor up close and personal and take home a special photo from your day!

KidFest

Saturday February 28 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday February 29 10:00 am-Noon

Kids! This special "wild" program is just for you! Jump aboard the trolley for a game of wildlife bingo, then look for clues during a scavenger hunt at Lake Mary. Have your photo taken with Honker the Blue Goose and take part in an interactive puppet show. Light refreshments will be provided to keep you going! Parent or guardian must be present.

Wild Rides

Saturdays 10:00 am - Noon
Sundays 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Winter at the Refuge is a great time to view wildlife, especially during this two-hour guided trolley-tram tour offered every weekend. Coyotes are more easily seen again a blanket of snow, prairie dogs are still active, magnificent mule and white tail deer bucks show off their impressive antlers, and majestic bold eagles relax in the bare trees along frozen lake edges. Don't forget your cameras and binoculars - you never know what you might see!



MARCH



Backyard Bird Feeding

Saturday March 6 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday March 7 10:00 am-Noon



Would you like to see more fine feathered friends in your backyard? Then you won't want to miss this program presented by **Scott Menough from Wild Birds Unlimited**. Find out what birdseed and birdhouses will attract the species you want to see and what feeders will work the best for them. Then plan for your own backyard bird oasis and get ready for some great birdwatching!

Tools of the Trade

Saturday March 13 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday March 14 10:00 am-Noon

Biologists use various techniques to understand wildlife movements, how much area they use, migration routes, and dispersal distances. Come see this demonstration of high tech equipment used for monitoring wildlife. You may even get the chance to be a technical assistant!

Disappearing Treasures

Saturday March 20 1:00-3:00 pm
Sunday March 21 10:00 am-Noon

Join us for an exciting and educational exploration of the recently remodeled **National Eagle and Wildlife Repository**. Learn more about illegal wildlife trade throughout the world, the Native American Eagle distribution program, and how this unique facility benefits wildlife and the public. Space is limited-don't miss this special opportunity!

Spring Skies

Saturday March 27 7:00-9:00 pm
Sunday March 28 7:00-9:00 pm

Join **Larry Sessions, astronomy professor**, as he leads us on a celestial tour through spring skies. Spring sees the end of the winter season of clusters and nebulae as the Earth's orbit turns. Dominant constellations include Leo and Virgo. A viewing telescope will be provided. This program will take place rain or shine (starshine that is).



Reservations are not required for these following programs:

Wild Treks Drop-In Program

Saturdays and Sundays 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Don't let the chill of the winter keep you inside - bundle up and head out to the Refuge! Hear the crunch of winter snow under your feet and feel the brisk winter air while hiking our nature trails in search of wintering wildlife. Then warm up inside the Visitor Center and explore the exhibits and interactive learning stations in the Wildlife Learning Lab. Check out the live honeybee tree exhibit and see what the bees are up to. Browse through the Wildlife Society's bookstore and gift shop.

Scout Packs

Saturdays and Sundays 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Calling all scouts! Visit the Refuge during drop-in hours and earn merits toward your wildlife badges by checking out a backpack filled with field study guides, binoculars, and activities. Then, head out to the trails for some wildlife fun! To earn merits toward badges, call 303-289-0930 for more information.

Reservations are required for these popular programs. Space is limited. Call (303) 289-0930 to register. For all programs please wear sturdy shoes and dress according to the weather. If you have questions about which programs would be appropriate for certain ages, please ask when making your reservation. All children must be accompanied by an adult. All programs and activities are **FREE**. The driver must show photo I.D. to enter the Refuge. Please sign-in at the Visitor Center upon arrival. Assistant dogs are welcome. Visit our website at <http://rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov>.

Register early for these FREE activities by calling 303-289-0930.