

E. Biesiot

The Talon

Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuges Volunteer Newsletter

February 2005

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With Spring in the not so distant future, we are gearing up for warmer weather. There are several projects that we can not complete with out your help!

Puncture Vine Removal – During the spring, summer and early fall, many guided bicycle tours are scheduled during weekends on the Refuge. In the past we have had a problem with flat tires on these tours, all from puncture vine goat heads. Spraying these invasive species is effective, however, the seeds remain on the ground. Puncture vines are effectively eliminated by removal of the root with the use of a shovel, and removing the seeds from the trail. The fallen seeds are effectively removed by a foam roller that picks up the goat heads. This job including the wetlands trail, would require approximately 2- 4 hour days with the assistance of at least 8 volunteers. This work also will help the habitat crew in controlling this invasive species, which grows most in summer months and prefers spreading along trails and roads. Dates: May 28–29, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; July 16 – 17, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. contact Ivan

Volunteer Help Needed

Vicente at **303-289-0864**

*Note: The spring dates involve removing last year's puncture vines which still remain on our trails, and the summer dates will involve removing the puncture vines that start growing this year,

Trail Filter Fabric Relining – Many of our trails are in need of filter fabric relining. Filter fabric is the lining underneath the crusher fines (trail surface or top layer) that keeps weeds from growing deep roots. This job involves removal of 6 inches of crusher fines using a shovel, then removing the affected filter fabric and replacing it with the new filter fabric, and returning crusher fines back on the surface of the trail. The project requires moderate physical activity. Dates: April 2, 8:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; April 9, 8:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m. contact Ivan Vicente at **303-289-0864**



Kids All-American Fishing Derby

A city-wide invitational kids fishing derby co-sponsored by Wal-Mart will take place on Saturday, April 23rd at Lake Mary from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event includes booths, educational hand-outs, fishing lessons, pictures with Freddy the Fish and more. As always, we could not conduct this event without your help and support. Please contact Ivan Vicente for more information on the Kids all-American Fishing Derby.

Visit our website <http://rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov/>

Wildlife at a glance

*Refuge biologists completed the deer classification survey in December 2004. The Refuge is home to 303 white-tailed deer and 363 mule deer.

*Refuge biologists are conducting Raptor Surveys once a week.

*An Eagle scout constructed 2 bat boxes and installed them along the northeast side of Lake Ladora.

* Bald eagle surveys are conducted twice a week at dusk, high



Calendar of Events



2005 Angler Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2005
6 pm at the Visitor Center



Workshops

Waterfowl Identification Workshop
Saturday, March 26, 2005 8 am-10 am
at the Visitor Center.

February Volunteer Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2005
7 pm at the Visitor Center
Guest speaker Tom Jackson
Topic: Water and the Refuge



This training is highly encouraged for Refuge Tour Guides and Roving Interpreters. To RSVP contact Jeannine at 303 289 0471.

Angler Area



1st Arsenal Angler Volunteer Meeting

The first 2005 volunteer angler meeting will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center. We encourage your participation at this important meeting. The 2005 fishing schedule of events will be discussed as well as all changes for the 2005 public fishing program. Please feel free to call Ivan Vicente at 303-289-0864 with any questions.



Fishing Orientations 2005

Fishing orientations will be held every Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the events area (behind Visitor Center) starting on Saturday, March 26, 2005. All fishing orientations will not require reservation and will run for approximately 15 minutes.

Fishing Fever!

New Spring Event!

The Refuge staff is in the process of planning a spring event focusing on fishing and the fisheries to be held, Saturday, May 14 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Various booths will be set up including hands on activities and outside organizations. We are anticipating a large crowd at this event, and as always, we could not pull off an event like this with out volunteers. Sign-up sheets and more information will be available soon, contact Susan at (303) 289-0366 for more information.



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What is a Five-Year Review (Review)?

The Review evaluates if environmental standards that affect the site have changed, whether the cleanup continues to be protective of public health and the environment, and if it can be expected to remain protective after completion of the project. The Arsenal successfully completed its first Review in 2000. The next Review occurs in 2005.

Why is a Review Conducted?

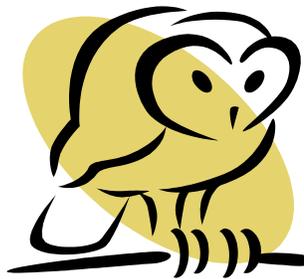
The Superfund law requires a review of cleanup actions every five years at sites where contamination remains (landfills, disposal basins, water treatment plants, etc.)

Who Conducts the Review?

Representatives from the U.S. Army (lead agency), Shell Oil Company, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Tri-County Health Department will work together to conduct the Review.

More information on the Five-Year Site Review will be available at the February volunteer meeting and on the Army website www.rma.army.mil.

Christmas Bird Count



On January 1, 2005 members of the Audubon Society of Greater Denver conducted a Christmas Bird count at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National

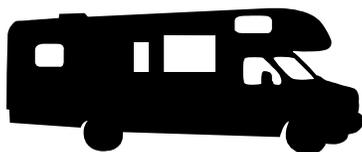
Wildlife Refuge. There were 57 different species of birds observed, 2,940 individual birds were counted including: 500 Canada geese, 16 pintails, 20 bald eagles, 24 red-tailed hawks, 2 Cooper's hawks, 6 great horned owls, 6 barn owls, 42 long eared owls, 36 horned larks and 5 ringed-necked pheasants.

If you are interested in participating in the Backyard Bird count at the Refuge sponsored by Colorado Audubon Society February 18-21, 2005 please visit <http://www.birdsource.org/> for more information!

We Need You for the Colorado RV, Sports, Boat and Travel Show

Wednesday, March 2 through Sunday, March 6, 2005 Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge will participate in the Colorado Boat and Travel Show with Colorado Division on Wildlife and other organizations. The show will be held at the National Western Complex.

Date	Shift 1	Shift 2	Shift 3
Wednesday, March 2	4:30 pm-7:00 pm	7:00 pm-9:00pm	
Thursday, March 3	4:30 pm-7:00 pm	7:00 pm-9:00 pm	
Friday, March 4	11:30 am- 2:30 pm	2:30 pm-5:30 pm	5:30pm-9:30 pm
Saturday, March 5	9:30 am- 12:30 pm	12:30 pm-4:30 pm	4:30 pm -8:30 pm
Sunday, March 6	9:30 am-2:30 pm	2:30 pm-6:30 pm	



If you are interested in assisting the Refuge staff with this show, please contact Jeannine at (303) 289-0471 to sign-up . Thank you for your support!

Visitor Center Assistant Training

Thanks to those of you who attended the Visitor Center Assistant training. We appreciate your willingness to assist us when there is a need and we look forward to having the Visitor Center desk staffed during the week as well as the weekends. If you were unable to attend the training, but would like to staff the desk, please contact Susan Echelberger at (303) 289-0366 or look for upcoming training sessions listed in the Talon and on the website.



Passing of a friend

John Crooks passed away December 30, 2004. Services were held January 3, 2005. John became a Refuge volunteer in 1992 and had contributed nearly 3,000 hours upon his resignation from the program in 2002. John volunteered as a Refuge Tour Guide and worked at the Visitor Center desk. Those of you who knew John were graced with his great sense of humor and wonderful laugh and desire to make the Refuge a better place for all who visited! John will be missed.

Wildlife Update

Refuge Biologists have a busy season ahead of them. Below are just a few of their wildlife projects for FY '05.



Kestrel study – In FY 04, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) used our kestrel boxes for a West Nile Virus (WNV) disease study. This year, there will be some USGS use of the kestrel boxes for a continuation of the WNV study. Additionally, we will be monitoring the boxes for reproductive success and contaminant analyses.

Burrowing owls – Monitoring of nests and trapping and banding of adults and chicks will be conducted. Blood samples may be taken for testing of WNV disease in support of the USGS WNV raptor study.



Coyotes – This year we will try to determine density of coyotes on the Refuge. Road surveys, litter counts and scat collection and analysis will be performed.



Bald eagle nest observation – The nest area will be monitored to determine if and when nesting is initiated. If nesting is initiated, we will determine the date that eggs are laid, hatching occurs, and monitor the development of young eagle(s) until fledging.

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