

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter • February 2011

What's new?

Hi there! My name is Cody Dix, and I am the new Volunteer Coordinator here at Deer Flat. I just started in mid-January, taking over for Lauren Roden, and am trying to learn as much as possible about Deer Flat and its wonderful volunteers. Let me introduce myself. I am from nearby Meridian and graduated in December from the University of Idaho with my bachelor's degree in Conservation Social Sciences. I am looking forward to working with you all as the year moves along. Feel free to stop by the Visitor Center and say hello... I look forward to meeting you all!

We hope that the first month of the New Year treated you well. January saw some cold temperatures and a lot of fog, so if you have cabin fever and are looking for a winter wonderland treat, come out to enjoy the frozen lake. Eagles, owls, deer, pheasants, coyotes, and other cool critters are still out and about!

Cheers!

Many thanks to all of the volunteers that staffed the visitor center on Saturdays this past month: Don Dunn, Cathy Eells, Bob Faller, Jim Holcomb, Noreen Trip, and Lynn Wilfling. Refuge visitors (and staff) sure do appreciate you!



Thanks also to volunteers from the Idaho Waterfowl Association who repaired or replaced goose nesting platforms and wood duck boxes on all the Refuge islands between Marsing and Homedale. The birds thank you!

Finally, Steve Kehoe, the 2010 Refuge Outstanding Volunteer, was recognized by the National Environmental Education Foundation as the 2nd Place National Public Lands Day Volunteer of the Year out of a national pool of over 170,000 volunteers! Thanks for your hard work and dedication Steve, and congratulations on your well-deserved recognition.

Around the water cooler...

Addison and Kendra did a deer spotlight survey at the end of December. They saw nearly 100 deer around the Lake Lowell Unit, including a white-tailed buck (10 point with an 8-inch drop tine)!

The staff is hard at work developing preliminary draft alternatives for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan. They hope to have them ready for public comment by late spring. To find out about the CCP process, visit www.fws.gov/deerflat.

Did you know...

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge has a non-profit Friends group, Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge! This all-volunteer group helps the Refuge by coordinating volunteer projects, hosting events, and raising funds and writing grants for Refuge projects. If you enjoy volunteering, appreciate the Refuge, and want to help even more, think about becoming a Friends member! Membership starts at \$10, and all contributions are tax deductible. If you really want to get involved, consider joining a committee or even the Friends' board. For more information about the Friends, **contact Genevieve Johannsen at cgj_83651@yahoo.com or 467-7515** and come to their annual meeting (see next page).



Upcoming Events:

Wild About Life Lecture Series: Tuesday, February 8th 7 PM

Stop Alien Invaders: Biological Control of Invasive Species, Come learn about control measures used to combat noxious weeds in SW Idaho. Joseph Milan, Biological Control Specialist with the Bureau of Land Management, will focus mostly on biological control. He will also discuss mechanical, chemical, and cultural methods to keep these nasty plants at bay.

Junior Duck Stamp Art Day: Saturday, February 12th, 1-3 PM

Budding artists in 2nd – 5th grades are invited to the Refuge to learn about wintering waterfowl, go on a bird walk, play wildlife games—and have the chance to win a state or national art contest. All art supplies will be provided!

Friends of Deer Flat Annual Meeting: Saturday, February 26th, 6:30 PM

Join the Friends of Deer Flat to find out about all the great things the Friends have done throughout the past year! Finger foods/appetizers and coffee will be served.

Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest: Deadline: March 15th

Young artists are invited to enter the contest, which is open to all K-12 students in Idaho. For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/education/jrduck.html>.

Unless otherwise stated, all activities are free for everyone and take place at the Refuge Visitor Center. To find out more information about or participate in any of the above, please contact deerflat@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Wood Duck Box Survey (3-4 volunteers per day)

Dates and Times: February 28th – March 2nd, 8:30am-3:00pm

Help longtime volunteer Jim Holcomb survey, clean, and repair roughly 70 Wood Duck boxes at Lake Lowell. Feel free to register for one day or all three. **Deadline to register: February 15th**

Scout Day (3-4 volunteers per month)

1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. **Upcoming dates: February 5th, March 12th, and April 2nd.** A free environmental education opportunity for Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Volunteers lead programs that include crafts and a short hike. No experience necessary—only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn! **Deadline to register:**

Ongoing

Reading at the Refuge (1-2 volunteers per month)

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10am and the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm. A free wildlife-focused storytime for pre-schoolers. Volunteers select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts and conduct reading and craft. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

Spring/Summer Internship Opportunity:

The Refuge is recruiting for a full-time biological intern to serve from May through October. The intern will help with various projects, including (in order of priority): grebe (western and Clark's) survey and monitoring, lake use study, database design and entry, invasive species mapping and treatment, and other duties as assigned. For more information about the position, eligibility and how to apply, see <http://www.fws.gov>

Thanks again, and see you at the Refuge!

Cody Dix, Volunteer Coordinator