

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • May 2011

What's new?

Spring certainly came in like a lion in April with a lot of storms and cooler temperatures. Even though it hasn't been the ideal spring season, Deer Flat is still hopping with volunteer opportunities. May is going to be a busy month on the Refuge, and we are going to need your help! Please tell your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about your Deer Flat volunteer experiences and help us spread the word to anyone who might be interested.

In wildlife news, the nesting pair of bald eagles near the north shore of the Visitor Center have laid eggs! Also, osprey have returned to our osprey pole near the Visitor Center, and you can watch them from anywhere by clicking <http://www2.fiberpipe.net/deerflat/ospreycam.asp>

Cheers!

A big thank you goes out to all 106 volunteers who helped with Earth Day Work Day on Saturday, April 23! Volunteers helped remove over 1,200 white bryony and poison hemlock weeds, collect over 50 bags of litter, remove seven tires from the shore, and remove countless leaves and weeds around the Visitor Center. And thank you to our volunteer leaders for the day: Kris Horton, Steve Kehoe, Don Dunn, and Claire Deters. Excellent job everyone! Their efforts were even highlighted on KBOI Channel Two and in the Idaho Statesman.

Around the water cooler...

The Refuge staff is hard at work preparing the next Planning Update about the Comprehensive Conservation Planning process. Preliminary Draft Alternatives should be released at the end of May. Please take a look at them and take advantage of the 60-day comment period to provide your input and suggestions. If you are interested in being on the mailing list, please contact the refuge at 467-9278 or email deerflat@fws.gov.

Upcoming Events:

Wild About Life Lecture Series: Tuesday, May 10th, 7 PM

Leave No Trace Camping: Leaving Your Mark is Overrated: Come discover the principles of Leave No Trace camping, including a presentation and discussion, demonstration of techniques, and a question and answer session. Hayley and Dick Bahr, Leave No Trace certified Master Educators, will lead this interactive session at the Deer Flat Visitor Center.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders

Dates and Times: May 3, 5, 9-13, 17, 19, 24, and 31. 9:30am-2:30pm

This spring marks the kickoff of our Discover Wildlife Journeys field trips. Volunteers are still needed to help guide 4th-6th graders through educational stations near the Visitor Center and connect students with nature. No experience necessary – just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. **Deadline to register: Contact Cody ASAP**

Festival Outreach Helpers (3-4 volunteers)

Kuna Snake River Birds of Prey Festival: May 14-15 - 10am-4pm and Nampa Public Library: June 4 – 10am-1pm

Represent Deer Flat at various festivals this spring. Help staff a booth, meet and talk to folks interested about the Refuge, and help kids learn about wildlife through fun activities. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**



Weed Warrior Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Time: First two weeks in May, 8am-4pm

If you have an open weekday or two within the next few weeks, and are itching to get outside, ultimate weed warrior and volunteer Steve Kehoe is looking for a few people to help him remove and spray some noxious weed hotspots around the Refuge before summertime hits. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

Comprehensive Conservation Plan Update Labeling and Postage Helpers (2-3 volunteers)

Dates and Times: Friday, May 27, 12:00pm-4:00pm

Things are moving along with the CCP, and we are preparing to update people on what's going on! Planning Update 3 will be released in late May, and we need some help labeling and applying postage on postcards and Planning Updates so they can be mailed quickly to folks. **Deadline to register: May 23**

BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day Volunteers (20-30 volunteers)

Dates and Time: June 11, 10am-3pm

Our annual BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day events are just around the corner, and we need your help! Volunteers are needed to help set up tables and crafts, staff various craft and activity tables, shuttle visitors, help youngsters with fishing, wear the Blue Goose costume, and clean up the event as well. This is a great opportunity to show how special Deer Flat is to families and friends, and is quite the fun event as well! **Deadline to Register: June 3**

Lake Use Survey and Parking Lot Count Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)

Date and Time: April 15th-September 30th

Help the Refuge characterize recreational use of Lake Lowell by observing and surveying boating activity. If you like watching people and enjoying a view, think about signing up! In particular, parking lot vehicle counters are needed to collect accurate traffic data. No prior experience necessary, training will be provided. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

Computer Helpers (1-2 volunteers)

Date and Time: Ongoing

If you know some of the ins and outs of Microsoft Office, we would love your help. Volunteer Bob Sobba is currently writing a history of the Refuge and needs some help incorporating pictures into his Microsoft Word document. If Excel is more of your thing, Addison is working on updating Deer Flat's bird list and needs some help creating and updating the bird list to be put into a new bird checklist brochure. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

Bee Monitoring Assistant (1-2 volunteers)

Date and Time: Ongoing

Buzz! Volunteer assistants will help Addison set up bee collecting bowls, collect insects from the bowls, and help prepare and package them to be sent to a Regional FWS Biologist throughout the summer. Great opportunity to be a part of USFWS research! **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

Day Camp Helpers (2-3 volunteers)

Dates: Biodiversity Basics Day Camp June 20-24 and Desert Detectives Day Camp July 11-15

Help assist Claire in running our summer day camp series for kids! Volunteers are needed to help run environmental educational program materials and chaperone students throughout the day. **Deadline to register: June 13**

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

Dates and Time: May 3 & May 17, 10:00-11:00am

A free wildlife focused story telling hour for pre-schoolers. Volunteers can select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts, and lead the storytelling and craftmaking. **Deadline to register: Ongoing.**

To find out more about or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, contact cody_dix@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Cody Dix, Volunteer Coordinator