



# The Grebe

Volume 6, Issue 4

Fall 2010

Mission of The Friends of Deer Flat:

*The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.*

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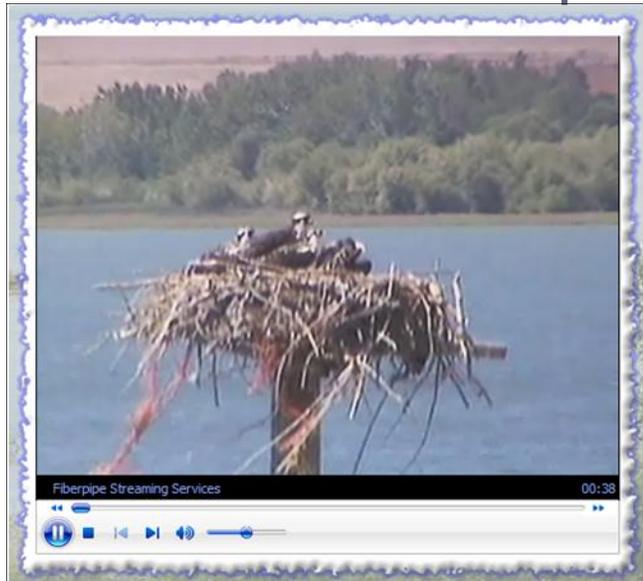
## OSPREY-CAM A SUCCESS

*The osprey-cam website hit counter showed from 200-300 visits per week and 20-60 visits a day--not to mention all those refuge visitors who saw the live-feed at the visitor's center.*

Those of us, who actively watched the Deer Flat osprey-cam this past several months, were rewarded with the sights of three young osprey chicks bobbing their heads above the bowl of the nest. We enjoyed seeing the parents fly in with fish clutched tightly in their talons, and watching as they tore off bits of raw meat to feed the hungry youngsters.

We watched as the juvenile birds rapidly grew until they rivaled their parents in size. Still the adult osprey brought back fish to the nest, ripped the flesh, and fed their fully grown offspring. Meanwhile, the young fledglings were actively stretching and flapping their wings—getting ready for that first test flight. We nodded our heads in approval as they took short hopping flights to each side of the nest structure. On occasion one would helicopter above the nest and then settle back to its familiar platform. Subsequently, one by one they took that first flight, flapping erratically to nearby perches and returning to take wing again.

The juvenile osprey and adults can still be observed in the area. The web-cam continues to catch them returning to perch on the nest structure or to feed on a freshly caught fish. However, the adult osprey will soon fly to their wintering grounds in Central and South America. The young will hang around until about the end of September before they start their migration.



(continued on page 9)

By Noreen Tripp

This has been a busy year at Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge staff has been very involved with the Comprehensive Conservation Planning. Staff members have been meeting with the public and seeking input about the Refuge management issues that are important to the future of the Refuge. At the same time the Refuge staff continues to be supportive and helpful to the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge and all volunteers.

2011 will be here before you know it; we will need your support for the projects we have planned in the New Year. The Friends will continue work on the Osprey web-cam. This has become an important way to generate interest in the Refuge and its wildlife. The bus scholarship program will be our main project in 2011. This project will help to bring school children to the Refuge. Children are the future of our refuge, and will be the ones that continue to keep the Refuge a place of enjoyment for all.

The next time you are at the Refuge take some time to enjoy the Hummingbird/ Butterfly garden just outside the Visitor's Center. Don and Mark have been doing great things there and the garden is looking wonderful. Don and the Friends are going to be working with a future Eagle Scout, who will be removing the old ground cover, cleaning the area and planting new shrubs that will attract butterflies.

The garden is becoming more professional and we hope to receive additional orders for engraved bricks. If you would like to purchase a brick, we have order forms in the Friends' Grebe's Nest, inside the visitors' center. The proceeds from the bricks go toward the improvement of the Hummingbird/Butterfly garden and other educational programs at the Refuge.



National Refuge Week is in October; join us on Saturday, Oct 9<sup>th</sup> at the Deer Flat visitors' center for a celebration of the National Refuge Week and the wonders of Deer Flat. We will have a story telling time and invite you to share your "Tales from Refuge Trails."

Again, thank you to all members for your continued interest and support of the Friends of Deer Flat.

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## **OCTOBER 2ND STARTS WINTER BIRD FEEDING AT THE REFUGE**

On September 18th, the Friends will sponsor an orientation to winter bird-feeding at the Refuge. Join us at 2:00 p.m. at the Visitors Center. If you cannot attend this meeting, but would like to help with filling the bird feeders, call or email Noreen Tripp at 208-249-8162 or [tonotripp@cableone.net](mailto:tonotripp@cableone.net)

*Mark your calendar...*

## Upcoming Events

### *Weed Warriors*

Saturday, September 18th, 9 to 11 a.m. - Help improve wildlife habitat. Meet at the Visitor Center.

### *Scout Day*

Saturday, October 2nd

### *Celebrate the Beauty of the Refuge*

Saturday, October 9th (see page for details)

### *National Wildlife Refuge Week*

October 10th thru 16th - National wildlife refuges come alive as vocal, migrating birds fill the skies, ponds, and fields; other wildlife actively forage for winter food supplies; and cottonwood and aspen leaves turn a brilliant gold. Make a special trip to the refuge this week.

### *Wild About Life Lecture Series*

Tuesday, October 12th

### *Weed Warriors*

Saturday, October 16th, 9 to 11 a.m. - Help improve wildlife habitat. Meet at the Visitor Center.

### *Scout Day*

Saturday, November 6th

### *Wild About Life Lecture Series*

Tuesday, November 9th

### *Scout Day*

Saturday, December 4th

### *Wild About Life Lecture Series*

Tuesday, December 14th

**Scout Day Information.** Sign up your wolf, bear, and webelo Cub Scouts or Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Pre-registration is required. Call 467-9278 or e-mail [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) to pre-register.

## Upcoming Refuge Events:

For more information on all events, contact the refuge at 467-9278 or [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov)

The **Grebe** newsletter is published quarterly. If you have an article or photo that you would like to be included in a future newsletter, please contact Denise Hughes at [idahobirder@hotmail.com](mailto:idahobirder@hotmail.com)

## **FRIENDS OF THE DEER FLAT REFUGE**

Come and Celebrate the Wild Beauty and Purpose of  
The Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

With:

FOOD, MUSIC and FUN followed by  
STORYTELLERS and PIES

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 9th 2010

TIME: 4:30 pm

LOCATION: Visitor's Center, Deer Flat Refuge, 13751 Upper Embankment Rd., Nampa, ID

FOOD: Starts at 4:30 to 5:30 pm

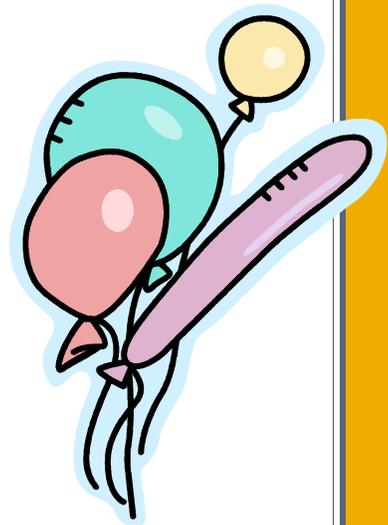
MUSIC: 5:00 to 6:00

FALCONERS: 5:00 to 8:00 pm

ACTIVITIES: They start at 5:00 pm and run to 7:00 pm - Examples: Fish Painting on Shirts, Painting Birdhouses and Feeders, Scavenger Hunt - to name a few!

STORYTELLING and PIES - 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

WANTED: Volunteers to help with Set-up and Take down, Activities for kids, Pies, Story Tellers and Great Stories, Voices of the Silent Inhabitants of the Refuge, Families and Friends of the Refuge and a Special Invitation to the Community so they can come, enjoy and appreciate the nature that resides here.



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## **COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN INFORMATION**

Lake Lowell has become one of the most talked about places in the Treasure Valley. If you would like truth behind the upcoming CCP, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/PDF/CCPPU1.pdf>  
You can also sign up for the CCP email list to stay abreast of any changes.

## Don't Underestimate America's Concern

by Greg Siekaniec, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System

It was July 14 – Day 87 of the Deepwater Horizon spill -- and the oil had stopped, awaiting the relief well to permanently plug the hole in the Earth. It was a relief for Louisiana and other Gulf States. It was a relief for the nation. It was a relief for wildlife. But it was only a temporary relief.

The long-term work continues.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill response is massive, covering about 460,000 square miles of ocean and 750 miles of shoreline, fought by more than 40,000 people from federal, state, local agencies, industry and even academia. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service alone deployed more than 525 people.

But the fight on behalf of wildlife is not over. What we don't know about the impacts of the oil spill is far more extensive than what we do know.



Releasing pelicans after cleanup from oil

When will wildlife thrive again? What will be the long term and short term environmental impacts of a spill that pumped millions of gallons into the ocean? What will happen to the next generation of wildlife? Will some species' reproductive function be impaired?

This much we do know: Hundreds of Service employees deployed to the Gulf worked long hours -- through weekends and holidays -- to ensure the best possible environmental outcome. And we know that Refuge Friends found innovative ways to find a silver lining in this nightmare.

The Friends of Balcones Canyonlands in Texas offered a \$10 donation to the National Wildlife Refuge Association's oil spill fund for every new member. The Refuge Association's oil spill fund is helping Friends groups that incurred extra expenses as staff deployed to the spill. The Association's first grant went to the Friends of Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama to help them plant native vegetation on newly constructed berms that prevented oil from reaching critical habitat for the endangered Alabama beach mouse.

Our future challenges will be as great as those we've already faced during the 87 days of spewing oil. All of us face one, overarching challenge: to maintain the nation's sky-high interest in wildlife's health. Perhaps one of the most important lessons we've learned is not to underestimate America's concern for its natural resources. Thank you for all you do for national wildlife refuges.



# Creepy Critter Encounters!

It's getting to be that time of year again. The nights are cooler, the mornings are crisp and the Great-horned owls are hooting! Everyone at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge is gearing up for Creepy Critter Encounters. A free, super-fun, spooky Halloween event on Saturday, October 23rd. Last year over 200 people came, many in costume, for a spooky hike, crafts, scary stories, and to howl for coyotes and hoot for owls!



Creepy Critter Encounters is a great way for kids and families to learn more about the creatures that live on the refuge and get outside for a night hike guaranteed to get you in the Halloween spirit! There will be five stations on the trail with activities and information about creepy critters—and other refuge wildlife. Of course there will be candy! Bring the kids (and kids at heart!)

An event like this takes a variety of volunteers to make it a success. It's a great opportunity for volunteers to be a part of the community and give something back. If you are interested in volunteering please fill out the volunteer sign-up form or contact the Volunteer Coordinator.



**Event at a Glance:**  
**When:** 4:00-7:00pm, Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Where:** Visitor Center @ Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge  
 Please contact [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) or 208-467-9278 or visit our website at [www.fws.gov/deerflat](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat) for more information.

## Creepy Critter Encounters Volunteer Sign-up

Wear a creepy costume, do crafts, teach about refuge creatures, and have **FUN!** Volunteers will receive an orientation to their station and do NOT have to be experts.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Times available (volunteers needed 3 PM – 8 PM): \_\_\_\_\_

Please check up to three jobs you are interested in volunteering for at Creepy Critters Encounter

- Help with Set up and Clean up**
- Welcome Table** - Welcomes visitors and provides information on the event
- Activity Station Host** - Staff a station along the spooky hike to lead activities about refuge wildlife
- Photographer** - Visually documents all the fun!
- Craft Table Attendant** - Assists visitors with wildlife-related crafts
- Mascot** - Wears the Blue Goose costume, the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System

Send to: Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge  
 13751 Upper Embankment Rd Nampa, Idaho 83686  
 Or email: [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov)

## Volunteer Opportunities!

As a member of Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge, you have the unique opportunity of knowing about upcoming volunteer opportunities first! Dedicated volunteers make it possible for the refuge to do environmental education, outreach, habitat improvement projects, and so much more. Thank you!

### **Weed Warriors (as many volunteers as possible!)**

September 18<sup>th</sup> and October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9-11am. Only two left in the season! Get your weekend workout removing invasive weeds to improve wildlife habitat. **No registration required.**

### **Waterfowl Data Entry (5-6 volunteers)**

Immediate start. Interpret data sheets from 1968 to the present day and enter into database. This will help us see trends better and therefore evaluate the management of the Lake Lowell and Snake River Islands to encourage more nesting waterfowl. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

### **Scout Day (3-4 volunteers per month)**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. A free environmental education opportunity for Scouts to earn various wildlife related badges. Volunteers lead programs that include nature crafts and a short hike. No experience necessary only enthusiasm and willingness to learn!

**Deadline to register: Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **Wild About Life Lecture Series (1 volunteer)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday every month. Assist environmental education specialist plan, promote and run the monthly wildlife focused lecture series. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

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

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

### **Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trips (1-4 volunteers per field trip)**

Starting this fall the refuge, in partnership with Canyon County Parks, Recreation, and Waterways and Northwest Nazarene University, will be offering a new field trip curriculum called Discover Wildlife Journeys. Volunteers will guide students through one or two of the field trip stations, which include stations about birds, aquatic invertebrates (including sampling from the lake!), terrestrial invertebrates, and using microscopes to see the unseen. No experience necessary, only a love of kids, your enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn! Field trips will be offered Tuesdays-Thursdays in September, October, March, April, and May. **Deadline to register: Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** training to be held at **9am September 17<sup>th</sup>**.

**All activities take place at the Visitor Center of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. If you are interested in finding out more information or participating in any of the above programs, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) or (208)-467-9278.**

## Join the Refuge System on Facebook

The National Wildlife Refuge has launched its own Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/usfwsrefuges](http://www.facebook.com/usfwsrefuges). More than 300 people signed on to “like” the Refuge System within the first two days. Daily updates will be posted, offering intriguing facts, opportunities to be outdoors, and invitations to share personal experiences on refuges. The Refuge System looks forward to generating lively discussions and broaden awareness of national wildlife refuges by using Facebook as one avenue for communications, especially as people share the page with friends. You can also follow the Refuge System on Twitter @USFWSRefuges. All Refuge System social media links may also be found on the Refuge System’s Web homepage at [www.fws.gov/refuges](http://www.fws.gov/refuges).

### Gulf of Mexico Wetland Conservation

David Monaghan, Photographer, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge



*Proceeds from the sale of this commemorative envelope  
benefit the conservation of Gulf Coast National Wildlife Refuges*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE / NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM



## Special Edition Duck Stamp Cachet Will Support National Wildlife Refuges in Gulf of Mexico

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has unveiled a special edition Federal Duck Stamp envelope, or cachet, that hunters, stamp collectors and other conservationists can purchase for \$25 -- or \$10 more than the cost of a regular Duck Stamp -- to help conservation efforts in the Gulf of Mexico. The funds will be used to acquire wetlands for inclusion in national wildlife refuges along the Gulf Coast.

The public can purchase the special edition Federal Duck Stamp cachet from Amplex Corporation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s distributor, by dialing 1-800-852-4897 or at [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com).

## OSPREY-CAM ... (continued from page 1)

During the fall and winter months we will be working with our sponsor, Fiberpipe, to manipulate the web-cam to show other wildlife use of the refuge, so stay tuned at <http://www2.fiberpipe.net/deerflat/ospreycam.asp>.



For your information, in addition to the three young osprey fledged at the visitor center nest sight covered by the web-cam, there were two osprey young that fledged at the nest sight near the refuge maintenance shop. Also, the bald eagle nest west of the visitor center fledged two eaglets this summer, while the eagle nest on the east end of Lake Lowell was unsuccessful.

by Bob Christensen

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### Share Photos on Flickr

Smile. You could have your digital photos on the new Flickr group called, "Let's Go Outside."

Hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the "Let's Go Outside" <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1385215@N24/> group allows Flickr users to upload images of themselves, their family and friends at national wildlife refuges and other great outdoor spots. You can use Flickr's map function to identify where your photos were taken and see the places where group members explore nature.

You can also describe where the image was taken and your experiences in nature. You can even upload images from your cell phone or chat on the Flickr discussion board about members' favorite places to go.

The Service's "Let's Go Outside" initiative encourages people to reconnect with nature. To learn about activities in nature go to the Service's special events calendar online at [http://www.fws.gov/refuges/SpecialEvents/FWS\\_SpecialEvents\\_Search.cfm](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/SpecialEvents/FWS_SpecialEvents_Search.cfm), or the Let's Go Outside Web site, <http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/>.



## Migratory Bird Commission Approves Refuge Acquisitions

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved \$35.7 million for refuge acquisitions and wetlands grants — \$30.4 million for grants to conserve more than 6 million acres of wetlands and associated habitats in the United States and Canada under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), and \$5.3 million in Federal Duck Stamp funds to add about 1,850 wetland acres to six units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

“Besides providing habitat for fish, wildlife and plants, our nation’s wetlands provide vital storm protection for coastal areas, hold and slowly release flood waters, act as filters to cleanse water of impurities and provide recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities for millions of people,” said Salazar, who chairs the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.



2011 Duck Stamp

Nearly \$25.4 million in NAWCA Standard Grants will support five Canadian projects for migratory birds on more than 6.1 million acres in 12 provinces and territories. Partners will contribute more than \$47 million toward these projects.

Also approved was nearly \$2 million for two projects in California and Wisconsin that will acquire, restore and enhance 2,833 acres. Partners will contribute more than \$4 million for these projects.

The Commission approved purchase of wetland habitat to be added to six units of the Refuge System to secure breeding, resting and feeding habitat. These acquisitions are funded with proceeds from sales of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, otherwise known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

Stamps can be purchased at your local post office, at your favorite national wildlife refuge or many sporting goods stores.

**PUT YOUR STAMP ON** ...and preserve the future of birding.

Put your stamp on the future of a great American asset. Purchase this year's Federal Duck Stamp and play a major role in the acquisition of migratory bird habitats across the country.

**\$15** Your purchase helps protect the best habitats, and serves as your pass to all National Wildlife Refuges.

Available at most U.S. Post Offices, staffed National Wildlife Refuges, better sporting goods stores, or online.

[fws.gov/duckstamps](http://fws.gov/duckstamps)



**FRIENDS OF DEER  
FLAT WILDLIFE  
REFUGE**

13751 Upper Embankment  
Road  
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

***Executive Board:***

***President - Noreen Tripp  
(936-3130 )***

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***Secretary - Dixie Blome  
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***Treasurer - Bob  
Christensen (454-2518)***

***Newsletter - Denise Hughes  
(850-5885)***

**We are on the web at:  
[www.fws.gov/deerflat/  
friends.htm](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/friends.htm)**

**To preserves and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge**

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in December 2010

## Let's Go Outside

by Martha Nudel

We are always looking for stories from your Friends organization for our Friends Forward newsletter, so please pass those along to me. If you have Friends members who want to receive the Friends Forward newsletter in the mail, please send me those names and addresses. We are happy to add your membership to our mailing list.

I hope that you not only join us on Facebook and Twitter -- but that you recommend our Facebook page to your whole membership and your personal circle of conservation supporters. We want to generate great conversations about national wildlife refuges.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/letsgooutside/>

<http://twitter.com/USFWSRefuges>

<http://www.facebook.com/USFWSRefuges>

[www.fws.gov/refuges](http://www.fws.gov/refuges)