

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • June 2012

What's new?

Summer is here! With the nice weather, there have been many visitors using the trails and the lake. Why not plan a trip to the Refuge soon. If you want to volunteer while you're here, there are quite a few opportunities to get involved, both indoors and outdoors. We always appreciate and enjoy working with you!

Cheers!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers that helped teach over 500 students about wildlife and the Refuge through the Discovery Wildlife Journeys field trips this season: Bob Ruesink, Frank and Linda Strehle, Sara Jo Waite, and Zeb Dooms.

Some good news about one of our volunteer recognition programs. The number of volunteer hours required for the America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass has been reduced from 500 to 250 volunteer hours! If you think you have earned one and would like to pick it up, please let us know.



Around the water cooler...

The second round of the goose nest survey unfortunately showed a low success rate, but there were definite signs of hatched life! Also, Addison and volunteers saw grebes starting to sit on nests—no eggs yet, but they're getting ready!

We will be having some new face arriving at the refuge soon: a new biological intern and a new YCC leader and crew. Please say "hello" and "welcome" if you see them out and about studying and improving the Refuge!

On the CCP front, the draft is currently being reviewed, edited, and formatted. Because of the public interest and the interest of local, state, and elected officials, the editing and feedback processes are taking longer than expected. We'll keep you posted about when the draft plan will be out. Let us know if you are not on the CCP mailing list but would like to be added so you will receive information about the draft and how to get involved.

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

If you want to support the Refuge beyond volunteering, please consider joining the Friends of Deer Flat. Your small membership fee is tax deductible and helps fund various Friends projects throughout the year. The Friends are also looking for more active members (and even board members). If you have a grand idea for the Refuge or want to share your enthusiasm about the Refuge with like-minded people, think about joining! For more information about membership or Friends volunteering, contact friendsofdf@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events:

BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day: Saturday, June 9th, 10 AM-3 PM

Celebrate biodiversity and practice your fishing skills at these two events. Great family activities, including live fish, birds, reptiles, and insects! Come join in the fun.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

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

Dates and Times: TBA

Although we're not sure when the CCP draft and planning update will be released, we will eventually need some help labeling and applying postage on postcards and Planning Updates. **Please notify us of your interest.**

Weed Warrior Volunteers

(3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Time: Tuesdays

If you have an open Tuesday 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 join a weed warrior crew to manually remove and spray some noxious weed hotspots around the Refuge. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**



Photo Courtesy: Addison Mohler/USFWS

Festival Outreach Helpers

(3-4 volunteers)

**Lakeside Lavender Festival:
July 14-15, 9am-4pm (Nampa)**

Represent Deer Flat at this summer festival near the Refuge. 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: July 6**

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

Dates and Time: First and third Mondays of each month at 10am and 2pm

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

Visitor Center Host (8-10 volunteers per month)

Dates and Times: Saturdays throughout the year, 10am-4pm

The Visitor Center is open on Saturdays thanks to visitor center host volunteers. If you enjoy interacting with people and sharing wildlife stories with visitors, then this might be the opportunity for you! Training is provided. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

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

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Kash Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator