



THE GREBE

Published by The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

Volume 2, Issue 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **June 5 -**
MONTHLY MEETING at 7
p.m. at Deer Flat Visitor
Center
- ◆ **June 5 -**
Lecture Series
(Biodiversity and Zoo
Boise)
- ◆ **June 8 & 9 -**
Bio Blitz
- ◆ **July 10 -**
MONTHLY MEETING at 7
p.m. at Deer Flat Visitor
Center (NOTE DATE
CHANGE)
- ◆ **July 10 -**
Lecture Series (To
be announced)
- ◆ **July 21 -**
Weed Warriors
- ◆ **August 7 -**
MONTHLY MEETING at 7
p.m. at Deer Flat Visitor
Center
- ◆ **August 7 -**
LECTURE SERIES
(Controlling noxious &
invasive weeds)

If you have a story that you would like to have published in "The Grebe", please contact Denise Hughes, 850-5885 or den_hug@hotmail.com

Memoirs of a Grebe Nester

-Lee McGlinsky

Three orange school buses rolled into the Visitor Center parking lot and discharged Syringa seventh graders of all sizes, shapes and fashion statements. Lynn Wilfling and I stood by the Grebe Nest store with welcoming smiles. Susan and Amy corralled the milling crowd for instructions. Then they separated them into groups to cycle through the "hands on" activities the Refuge staff had planned to teach the kids about their environment.

Accompanied by teachers and parents each group eventually came into the Visitor Center for a scavenger hunt, a video and the chance to try out the activities there. One student looked through the scope and his impassive face widened into a smile, "Miss, Miss, I can see the mama on the nest!"

Lynn and I answered questions about critters and took turns helping kids with their Grebe Nest purchases. The singing birds were a big hit. "Miss, can I change this bird for this other one?" "Oh, what a small voice the eagle has". "Should I

get a pink bracelet or a purple one?" "I want to get this for my mom".

"Miss, are eagles really that big?" "Miss, let me show you the kinds of fish I catch here". "Oh Miss, I think I see a baby in the nest!" "Miss, are all these animals real?"



And constantly, "Miss, Miss, can you focus the scope? I can't see anything".

It was funning watching these stone faced teenagers get excited and enthusiastic

over what they were learning. They were a well behaved, courteous group and Lynn and I had a good time with them. I invite you all to become Grebe Nesters. Call Lynn at 468-0506 and get on the schedule.

President's Corner

A day at the refuge - the International Migratory Bird Day celebration and Ride and Roam in pictures.

Tattoos



Monte & Slim



Taking a break

Lunchtime!!



Scavenger Hunt



Volunteers needed for BioBlitz

On Friday, June 8th and Saturday, June 9th, the 2nd annual BioBlitz will be held at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers are needed to help with the species count. You may not be an expert in a biological field, but you can assist in the count. The blitz starts at 3:00 p.m. on Friday and runs for 24 hours. Volunteers are also needed to help with activity booths on Saturday and to man the Friends booth. If you can spare an hour or two please join us at the refuge for a day of fun. To volunteer for refuge activities, call Amy Ulappa at 467-9278. To help staff the Friends booth on Saturday, call Noreen Tripp at 468-0402.



New Members



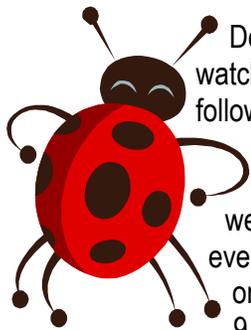
Please welcome our newest members:

- *David Miles
- *Marjorie Miles

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

BioBlitz 2007



Dorothy, the scarecrow, and the tin man watched for 'lions, tigers, and bears' as they followed the yellow brick road towards Oz.

Like Dorothy, many of us think about the large, furry, and feathered when we think about the natural world. However, of the 1.4 million described species, only about 4,000 are mammals and 9,500 are birds. What about the

dandelions, tiger salamanders, and woolly bears?

The variety of life in all its forms is referred to as biological diversity, or biodiversity. Unfortunately, biodiversity is declining. In North America over 600 species have become extinct since 1642, from the Passenger Pigeon and the Las Vegas leopard frog to the Steller's sea lion and the Florida fairy shrimp. The populations of many other species have declined, making them more vulnerable to extinction. Should you care about declining biodiversity? You decide after reading some of the many 'services' provided by living things:

- ◆ Biodiversity saves lives. Aspirin, cortisone, digitalis, penicillin, and many other drugs are derived from living things.
- ◆ Biodiversity produces food. Many native plants and agricultural crops would not produce fruits without pollinators like bees, butterflies, beetles, bats and birds.
- ◆ Biodiversity cleans up. Although we don't often stop to appreciate worms, bacteria, and other

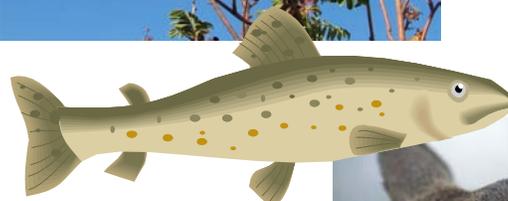
decomposers, without them waste products and dead animals and plants would be everywhere.

- ◆ Biodiversity provided resilience. Biologically diverse systems are better to react to disturbances ranging from disease to global warming.
- ◆ Biodiversity controls pests. For example, spiders provide an important service by keeping insect populations in balance. A decline in spider diversity would probably result in many more insect-borne diseases like West Nile virus and malaria.

From the air we breathe, to the water we drink, to the food we eat, biodiversity benefits people. Biodiversity also



inspires awe and wonder, and the benefit of that is priceless.





FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT WILDLIFE REFUGE

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Executive Board:

President - Noreen Tripp (468-0402)

Vice President - John Augsburg
(362-2769)

Treasurer/Secretary - Kris Horton
(461-9717)

Upcoming Programs

June 5 - BioBlitz Diversity

What is it and why do we care?

This interactive presentation will concentrate on animal diversity and the roles that zoos play in conservation efforts.



Join
Rena
Ashton
from Zoo
Boise will
lead the
discus-
sion.

The Friend's group general meeting will be held right after the program.

July 10 - General Meeting

Please note the date change due to the 4th of July holiday.

July 10 - Lecture Series to be announced

August 7 – Noxious and Invasive Weeds and control

Identification of noxious weeds in Idaho, how they impact the environment and how to control them.



By: Jim
Martel,
Canyon
County

Weed and Gopher Control

The Friend's group general meeting will be held right after the program.