



The Grebe

Volume 7, Issue 4

Fall 2011

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.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| The Big Sit! | 1 |
| A Message to Members | 2,7 |
| Upcoming Events | 3 |
| Duck Banding Icons | 4,5 |
| National Refuge Week & Amateur Radio | 6 |
| Winter Day Camp | 7 |
| Refuge Volunteer Opportunities | 8,9 |
| Winter Bird Feeding | 9 |
| Membership Renewal | 10 |
| Goodbye to a Friend | 10 |
| Creepy Critters Encounter | 11 |
| Raising Funds | 12, 13 |
| Wildlife Refuge System Photos | 13 |
| Lecture Series | 14 |

THE BIG SIT! 2011 WILL OCCUR ON
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
HELP US CELEBRATE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge, Southwestern Idaho Birders Association, and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge are sponsoring a Big Sit! at the Refuge in celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week.

This is a bird-focused event appropriate for all levels of birders and especially appealing to families and casual bird watchers. Bird Watchers Digest coordinates the event. The object of the Sit! is to count all birds that are seen and heard during a 24 hour period. The Counters will be sitting in a designated 17-foot circle. The circle at Deer Flat NWR will be open from 7 am to 7 pm.

Contact Cody Dix, Volunteer Co-coordinator at the Refuge, or Cheryl Huizinga, Southwestern Idaho Birders, for more details and to sign up for a count shift.

Stay as long as you can, even all day if you want. Bring your own chair; binoculars, warm drinks and field guides will be provided.



Cody Dix - cody_dix@fws.gov 208-467-9278
Cheryl Huizinga - bchuizinga@cableone.net 208-880-5687

A note from the president...

With the weather as warm as it is I find it hard to believe autumn has begun and October is just a week away. I hope that each of you had a chance to relax a bit and enjoy the summer activities. I came back from the Visions Conference in Madison completely excited about the many wonderful things Friends groups are doing at refuges across the nation. It was a wonderful opportunity to attend sessions specific to Friends and I was very proud to be able to share our successes with the Osprey cam and Bio Blitz and our Discover wildlife Journeys curriculum that reached over 1200 students in the first year.

As we move into autumn, we begin by celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week October 9th -15th. As you read in the feature article, we are going to join hundreds of other refuges in a full-day bird count. It is the 17th year that Swarovski has sponsored the event, so I am excited that the Southwestern Idaho Birders Association have taken up the challenge to bring us into the fold.



If you have been to the Refuge lately, you will notice that a new wing has been added to the Visitors Center and the parking lot is being re-defined. We, as a board, know that the end-result will be wonderful, but we were a bit apprehensive about trying to host an event similar to last year's during the transition, so we have opted for the Big Sit and possible amateur radio broadcasting from the Refuge—another nationwide event that we are looking into joining.

We have postponed the music and dinner until the Refuge's 103rd anniversary in February. We are recruiting board and committee members with plenty of lead time, so don't hesitate to jump in and be part of the planning and of the fun. I've created a new e-mail account for the Friends (so that those e-mails don't get lost among my own), so try it out by sending me your input at friendsofdf@yahoo.com.

One more remnant of "old business"...in June I received a call from a potential new member asking about our views related to hunting and fishing and such. We do not have a policy (and never will) regarding what members do as citizens and sportswomen or men, but it would help me to understand more about our membership if you would share a bit of information with me. Please complete the survey on page 7 and copy and paste it into an e-mail if you have not already done so. Or mail it to the Friends address listed on the back page. I have heard from 10 or 12 members already and would like to hear what the remainder of the Friends members think.

I hope to see you at the Big Sit!

Genevieve

Mark your calendar...

Upcoming Events

Scout Day

Saturday, October 1

Lecture Series - A Peek into the Life of Someone who Studies Life

Tuesday, October 11th, 7 p.m.

See page 14 for additional information

Creepy Critter Encounters

Saturday, October 29th, 4:00 p.m.

See page 11 for additional information.

Scout Day

Saturday, November 5th

Lecture Series - Naked Canaries: An Exploration of the Beauty and Biology of Amphibians

Tuesday, February 8th, 7 p.m.

See page 14 for additional information.

Scout Day

Saturday, December 3rd

Lecture Series - Insects as Indicators of a Healthy Ecosystem

Tuesday, December 13th, 7 p.m.

See page 14 for additional information.

Winter Day Camp

Wednesday and Thursday, December 28th and 29th.

See page 7 for additional information.

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 to pre-register.

Upcoming Refuge Events:

For more information on all events, contact the refuge at 467-9278 or 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 den.hug100@gmail.com

Duck Banding Icons

September 8, 2011
Deer Flat NWR



Rocket, Net & Grain Bait



Hold Your Fire - Wrong Flock!



Reach in Carefully. Do they bite?



Help! Let me out of here.



The Line Up



Put those bands on a little faster

Duck Banding Icons

September 8, 2011
Deer Flat NWR



So, this is what the underside of duck looks like.



Lots more where these came from.



Is this how to hold a duck?



Hold 'em this way--not as messy on the pant.



Everyone gets to band a duck.

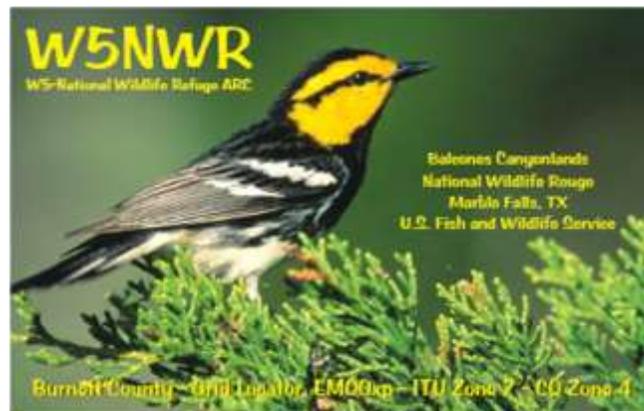


Banded & proud of it -- although a little dazed.

National Wildlife Refuges

The National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, spans our nation. For more than a century the refuge system has offered conservation and quality recreation .

NWR Week & Amateur Radio



Amateur Radio operators are helping spread the word about the National Wildlife Refuge System by operating from refuges during *National Wildlife Refuge Week*.

Radio operators highlight refuge features, wildlife and geography when making contact with other stations across North America. Operators will make contact using voice, teletype and, at some stations, Morse code.

NWR Week 2011

The Fish & Wildlife Service will observe 2011 NWR Week Sunday October 9 to Saturday October 15. Amateur Radio operators will observe NWR Week Saturday Oct. 8 to Sunday Oct. 16.



The NWR Week combines your enjoyment of the outdoors, appreciation for wildlife, and portable Amateur Radio operation.

Get Started

Review the *Getting Organized* and *Guidance* sections of this web site. Contact the NWR Week Amateur Radio coordinator at: info@nwrweek-radio.info

Register Now for the Refuge Winter Day Camp

Do squirrels have sleeping bags? Do bears use space heaters? Do geese eat in restaurants? Then how do they survive the challenges of winter? Students in 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades are invited to participate in this two-day event at the Refuge. Students will get a hands-on exploration of how plants and animals survive in the winter.



The *Hibernate, Migrate or Insulate: A Wildlife Winter Survival Guide* camp will be held December 28th and 29th from 1-4pm. The visitor center is located at the intersection of Roosevelt and Indiana in Nampa. Participants must register by December 16th, 2011. For more information or to register call (208) 467-9278, email deerflat@fws.gov or visit <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/>

Friends President Survey

(continued from page 2)

PLEASE TELL ME:

Do you fish? Yes No Do you fish Lake Lowell? Yes No

Do you own a boat? Yes No type _____

Do you own a watercraft? Yes No type _____

Do you boat/recreate on Lake Lowell? Yes No
If yes, how often? _____/week

Do you hunt? Yes No

If so, what do you hunt? _____ waterfowl _____ game birds _____ deer

_____ elk _____ moose _____ bear

_____ other (specify--optional) _____

Volunteer Opportunities...

Hello and Happy Fall, Friends.

Another summer season has come and gone. Now we anxiously wait for the beautiful gold, orange, and scarlet leaves to appear and the pumpkin pie to be done baking in the oven. Fall is also a great time to visit, enjoy, and serve a few hours at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.

Volunteers have done a lot of amazing things here at the Refuge this past year. They've cleaned up bags and bags of litter around the Refuge, removed noxious (and obnoxious) weeds to improve wildlife habitat, assisted in wildlife surveys, put on environmental programs, hosted the Visitor Center, and more. It has been a pleasure to get to know and work alongside Deer Flat's amazing volunteers. To thank our wonderful volunteers, we are holding a **Volunteer Recognition Luncheon** on Saturday, November 12. Details about time and location will be finalized here shortly. Friends members are invited! Please talk to me if you are interested in attending or would like more information.



Let's look at our fall calendar and take a peek at a variety of volunteer opportunities in the next few months. On Saturday, October 29 we will have our annual Halloween event called **Creepy Critter Encounters**. Volunteers help set up and clean up the event, run various wildlife stations, help oversee crafts, and so forth... If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out and return the volunteer application form on the Creepy Critter article in this edition of the Grebe. It should make for a frightfully fun time!

The fall also marks off the return of our **Scout Day** program! The first Saturday of each month from October to May, cub scouts and girl scouts have the opportunity to earn conservation badges through attending our Scout Day program. Volunteers run this environmental education program, guiding hikes and crafts, from 1-3pm. The fall dates for Scout Day are October 1, November 5, and December 3. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and passion for Deer Flat with some future Refuge Managers, think about volunteering for this program. Training is provided.

If you are interested in meeting and greeting folks, we always need (and appreciate) **visitor center hosts** throughout the year as well. We are busy scheduling the next quarter (October -December) of Saturday Visitor Center host days, and we encourage everyone to think about signing up for a weekend or two.

Lastly, it is never too early to ask and prepare for one of our fun annual educational events: **Winter Day Camp** on December 28 & 29. If you want to help teach kids (2nd-4th grades) about how animals survive through the winter, or would even like to help chaperone the group, then think about volunteering!

If any of these opportunities sound up your alley, or you would like to learn more about other volunteer positions and events, please feel free to let me know. You can contact me at 208-467-9278 or cody_dix@fws.gov. It is always a pleasure to talk and serve with Deer Flat volunteers.

Enjoy the fall season Friends and take care. We hope to see you at the Refuge!

Cody Dix
Volunteer Coordinator

OCTOBER 29th STARTS WINTER BIRD FEEDING AT THE REFUGE
Volunteers are Needed



"The Coop" Wildlife Blind
& Bird Feeding Station

On Saturday, September 29th, the Friends will sponsor an orientation to winter bird-feeding at the Refuge. Join us at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitors Center. We will be doing some clean up and initially filling up the bird feeders on that day. If you cannot attend this activity meeting, but would like to help with filling the bird feeders during the fall and winter months, call or email Noreen Tripp at 208-249-8162 or tonotripp@cableone.net

It's Time to renew your Membership

2011 is fast winding down, so **it's time to start renewing memberships**. Your gift is critical to our ongoing work to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, and is tax deductible. With your help, we can fund projects like the Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trips and Osprey-cam and help to educate the people of the Treasure Valley to the importance of the refuge.

For your convenience, there is a renewal form below. Thank you for your continued support of The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge.

Be a Friend! Join Today!

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Telephone

Email

Annual Membership Categories:

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Owl (Senior & Student) | \$10 |
| Deer (Individual) | \$15 |
| Fox (Family) | \$25 |
| Osprey | \$50 |
| Eagle | \$100 |
| Goldeneye | \$500 |



All contributions are tax deductible.
 Please print this page and return
 with a check payable to:
 Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
 13751 Upper Embankment Road
 Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Creepy Critter Encounters



All are encouraged to come to the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge's annual Halloween event: CREEPY CRITTER ENCOUNTERS!!! This is a free event for kids and kids at heart to enjoy a spooky nature walk with different stations, earn treats as they go learning about local wildlife, and see some not so local wildlife.

There will be a number of live animals ranging from worms to owls with a few creepy crawlies in between. We will also have some spooky stories and Halloween crafts. Everyone is encouraged to come in costume. To finish off the evening, we will hoot for owls and howl for coyotes. Over 200 people came last year and we hope to have even more this year.

Mark your calendars for Saturday October 29th from 4:00-6:30pm at the Deer Flat NWR Visitor Center!



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 down below or email deerflat@fws.gov.

Event at a Glance:

When: 4:00-6:30pm, Saturday October 29th

Where: Visitor Center at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Please contact deerflat@fws.gov or 208-467-9278 or visit our website at 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 – 7:30 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

Raising Funds by Doing What You Already Do

For a while now we have talked about making gift cards available to members as a way of adding to our budget. Yes, you can buy them in stores and from other sources, and when you do they keep the 2% to 17% from the sale and add it to their budget or daily sales receipts. If you would like us to allow you to pre-order through the Friends group the percent raised would go into our account and be used to forward our mission. You could use the cards to purchase things/gifts for others, or you could give them as gifts. Either way, our Friends group would reap the benefits.

I have pasted information about a few of the nearby stores below, but you may click on the link below to view the many options including local restaurants. We would want pre-orders in by October so that you can receive your cards in time to use them or give them for the holidays. Please e-mail me with a YES (I am interested in pre-ordering cards) or NO so that we can talk about putting an order form together for distribution if there is enough interest.

<http://www.glscrip.com/>

| | card price/% back | card price/% back | card price/% back |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Sporting Goods | | | |
| Big 5 Sporting Goods | \$25.00 8.00 % | | |
| Cabela's | \$25.00 11.00 % | \$100.00 11.00 % | |
| Dick's Sporting Goods | \$25.00 8.00 % | | |
| L.L.Bean ** | \$25.00 17.00 % | **\$100.00 17.00 % | |
| Nike | \$25.00 12.00 % | | |
| Orvis | \$25.00 17.00 % | \$100.00 17.00 % | |
| REI | \$25.00 8.00 % | | |
| Shopko | \$25.00 3.00 % | \$50.00 3.00 % | |
| Sports Authority | \$25.00 8.00 % | \$100.00 8.00 % | |
| Tanger Outlets | \$25.00 8.00 % | | |
| Target | \$25.00 2.00 % | \$100.00 2.00 % | |
| Specialty Retailer | | | |
| Bath & Body Works | \$10.00 13.00 % | \$25.00 13.00 % | |
| Build-A-Bear Workshop | \$25.00 8.00 % | | |
| Container Store | \$25.00 9.00 % | \$100.00 9.00 % | |
| Cracker Barrel | \$10.00 9.00 % | \$25.00 9.00 % | |
| Disney | \$25.00 2.00 % | \$100.00 2.00 | \$1,000.00 2.00 % |
| Fannie May Candies | \$10.00 25.00 % | | |
| Hallmark | \$25.00 4.00 % | | |
| Honey Baked Ham | \$10.00 12.00 % | | |
| Jiffy Lube | \$30.00 8.00 % | | |
| Jo-Ann Fabrics | \$20.00 6.00 % | | |
| Michaels | \$25.00 4.00 % | | |
| Nike | \$25.00 12.00 % | | |
| Nutrisystem | \$50.00 12.00 % | | |

(continued on page 14)

Raising Funds by Doing What You Already Do

| | card price/% back | card price/% back | card price/% back |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Omaha Steaks | \$25.00 11.00 % | | |
| PetSmart | \$25.00 4.00 % | | |
| Rocky Mountain Chocolate | \$10.00 11.00 % | | |
| Sally Beauty Supply | \$25.00 12.00 % | | |
| See's Candies | \$16.10 23.00 % | | |
| Sephora | \$20.00 4.00 % | | |
| Home Decor | | | |
| Bed Bath & Beyond | \$25.00 7.00 % | \$100.00 7.00 % | |
| Container Store | \$25.00 9.00 % | \$100.00 9.00 % | |
| Crate and Barrel | \$25.00 8.00 % | \$100.00 8.00 % | |
| Home Depot | **\$25.00 6.00 % | **\$100.00 6.00 % | **\$500.00 6.00 % |
| HomeGoods | \$25.00 7.00 % | \$100.00 7.00 % | |
| JCPenney | \$25.00 5.00 % | \$100.00 5.00 % | |
| Lands' End | \$25.00 16.00 % | \$100.00 16.00 % | |
| Macy's | \$25.00 10.00 % | \$100.00 10.00 % | |
| Marshalls | \$25.00 7.00 % | \$100.00 7.00 % | |
| Pier 1 Imports | \$25.00 9.00 % | | |
| Pottery Barn | \$25.00 8.00 % | \$100.00 8.00 % | |
| T.J. Maxx | \$25.00 7.00 % | \$100.00 7.00 % | |
| Williams-Sonoma | \$25.00 8.00 % | \$100.00 8.00 % | |

**Special offers apply. Click on the "what's new" link on the website and view the 'latest news' or 'special offers'.

USFW National Refuge System (from Facebook)



This week's walk on the wild side is a stroll through the early fall flowers blooming on refuges this first week of autumn. Their eye-candy colors – purple, yellow and red – attract butterflies and moths, which feed on flower nectar as they migrate south, or lay eggs that will hatch next spring.

See the slide show: <http://bit.ly/nddP1h>

Rabbit Brush in bloom,
photo by Denise Hughes



FRIENDS OF DEER
FLAT WILDLIFE
REFUGE

13751 Upper Embankment
Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Executive Board:
*President - Genevieve
Johannsen (467-7515)*
Vice President - Vacant
Secretary - Vacant
*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 Summer 2011

Lecture Series

**A Peek into the Life
of Someone who
Studies Life!**

Speaker:
Addison
Mohler



Our refuge biologist will share why he chose this profession and some research projects he has been involved with ranging from invertebrates to mountain lion

**Naked Canaries: An
Exploration of the
Beauty and Biology
of Amphibians**

Speaker: Dr. John
Cossel

Enjoy a photographic exploration of the beauty and biology of amphibians, the causes of their declines and their message for us all.



**Insects as
Indicators of a
Healthy Ecosystem**

Speaker: Ashley
Rohde

Discover the effects of fire disturbance and rehabilitation treatments on insect communities in sagebrush-steppe habitats

