



The Grebe

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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Notes From the President



This year is just flying by and we are now enjoying one of my favorite times of the year. A great place to enjoy these beautiful days is visiting the Pollinator Garden, just in back of the Visitor Center at the Refuge. I hope you can find some time to appreciate the beautiful view of our Refuge from the garden. We will soon have a bench to sit on donated by the Idaho Southwest Birders to honor one of their long-time members, Hilda Larson, "Mrs. Bluebird".

Earlier this year the Friends received a generous donation from Della Johnson. Protection of the environment and preserving land for wildlife was important for Della. The board has voted to use Della's donation to help the Refuge connect the Centennial Trail to the trail leading to the photo-blind. The photo-blind was one of the first projects that the Friends were involved in and it has become a big favorite of Refuge's visitors. Last year a ramp was added to the photo-blind to make it ADA compliant. Placing a concrete trail from the Centennial Trail to the ramp will be a great benefit in helping all to enjoy the photo blind and learn how important our Refuge is for the wildlife around us.

I would like to say thank you to our board members for all their support this year. One of our board members, Fred Christensen, recently resigned from the board, wanting to spend more time with his lovely wife. We will miss his quiet, reassuring manner at our board meetings. Fred loves to teach about bees and in September he placed one of his home made bee-boards in the Pollinator Garden.

Coming up in November is our board member election. What we need most for the future of the Friends are more members to become active Board members. If you are interested in becoming a Board member or serving on the nominating committee contact Kathleen McCarter, Friends Secretary at kmac.rider@gmail.com.

Noreen Tripp, President

EAGLE AWARD

Each year the Friends give the Eagle Award to an outstanding member of the Friends.

The 2014 Eagle Award was given to Susan Kain, Friends member and Refuge Visitor Services Manager. Susan Kain has been a mainstay support for the Friends group and key liaison between the Friends and the refuge staff. Without Susan's dedicated assistance, hands-on efforts, professional guidance, and support many of the Friends projects would not have been successful.

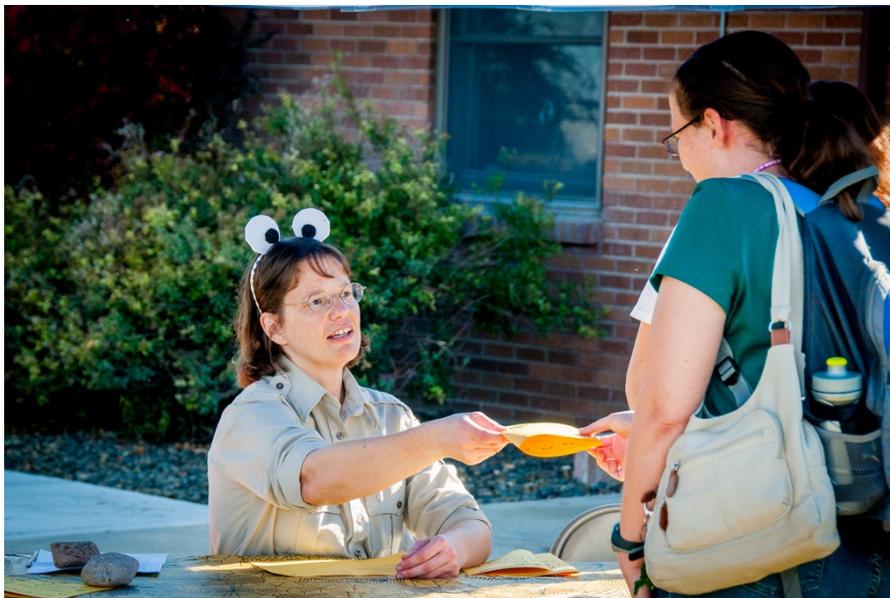
In the past a member of the board has nominated a candidate for the Eagle Award and then presented the candidate to the board for a vote.

This year the board is inviting our members to submit names for the Eagle Award candidate. You may send the name of your nominee with a brief statement of why you feel this person should receive the 2015 Eagle Award.

Please, submit your candidate to Noreen Tripp by October 25, 2014 by:

Email: tonotripp@cablone.net or

Mail: 714 S Bonneville Dr Nampa, Idaho 83686



Susan Kain helps out during the 2013 Creepy Critters event.
Photo curtesy of Robert Allen

POLLINATOR GARDEN UPDATE

Just last year our garden was just weeds and dirt, now we have a lovely place to enjoy. Placing the pavers for the new sitting area was quite a job done by a talented volunteer, Cori Frahm.

A special thank you to Tricia Matthews, Master Gardener, and her husband, Chris, for all the time and work they put into clearing the ground, laying the ground cover and so much more.

Tricia had a vision for our garden and she has been an important part of getting that vision realized.

The next time you come to the Refuge visit the garden, enjoy the birds, insects and the lovely view of the lake. We will soon have two benches placed in the garden so you can sit and relax for awhile.



Volunteers enjoy an evening at the Refuge at the new patio in the Pollinator Garden. Left to right - Bob Blome, Robert Reusink, Dixie Blome, Mary Jo Shumacher, Bob Faller, Noreen Tripp, Isabella Carson, and Cathy Eells. Picture credit: Noreen Tripp

Cori Frahm placing the pavers for the sitting area of the Pollinator Garden.
Photo Credit: Noreen Tripp



WINTER BIRD FEEDING

The Friends start our winter bird feeding project Saturday, November 1, 2014 and we will be feeding the birds at the Visitor Center and the photo-blind until the end of March. We feed the birds on Saturday, Mondays, and Wednesdays. You may feed one day a month or more if you would like.

You must attend a bird feeding class, if you have not been involved in the winter bird feeding in the past. We cover how and when to clean the feeders and safety rules.

If you would like to help with the winter bird feeding project, but do not want to feed; we need wild bird feed and money to purchase bird feed.

Contact persons:

Bob Christensen rcloydchris@juno.com 208-454-2518

Noreen Tripp tonotripp@cableone.net 208-249-8162



A happy Junco appreciating the winter feeding program at the refuge.
Refuge photo courtesy of Robert Allen

DECEMBER ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

When: December 11, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Refuge Visitor Center

Why is this meeting so important? The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge has one member meeting a year. It is a time to get together with other Friends members, learn what your Board of Directors have been doing during the year, and meet incoming Board members for 2015.

It is a time to talk with your Board, hear about plans for 2015, and most important, let Board members know what you would like to see the Friends accomplish for the upcoming year.

PUT THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!! We'll be looking forward to seeing you!

Noreen



Creepy Critter refuge photo courtesy of Robert Allen

ENHANCING OSPREY WEBCAM EXPERIENCE AT DEER FLAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

by Bob Christensen, Webcam Coordinator



Grant Received: The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge have received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to enhance the osprey webcam experience at Deer Flat NWR.

Donations Requested: We are also soliciting help and funding from Friends' members and others to help with our cost-share portion of the grant. If you would like to be involved in this project please phone Bob Christensen at 208-454-2518 or email rcloydchris@juno.com. Donations can be sent to: The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge, 13751 Upper Embankment Rd, Nampa, ID 83686.

Background: In 2010, the Friends of Deer Flat installed an osprey webcam, which has become a successful program at Deer Flat NWR. We have been able to watch the pair of ospreys prepare their nest, then raise and fledge a family of one to four young near the visitor center during the last four nesting seasons. The streaming video has been available via internet and on a TV at the refuge visitor center.

The webcam can be viewed at: <http://webhost1.fiberpipe.tv/usfws/osprey.html>

A companion blog for the website allows people to find out about osprey natural history and keep informed about the events at the nest, as well as ask questions about osprey, and about Lake Lowell and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.

At present we have a 25-power zoom PCX camera located about 100 yards from the nest pole. It can be adjusted to show various levels of magnification of the nest site and can be panned to observe other wildlife and scenes in a 360-degree arc. While the functionality of the camera is mostly adequate, it cannot show close-ups of the nest nor record the egg-laying, incubating, hatching and first couple of weeks of the small chicks' lives.

The first season's operation of the webcam, powered by solar cells, was often encumbered with outages because of low battery power and windy conditions. Prior to the second season, electrical wiring was extended 100 yards from the refuge visitor center and hardwired to the camera. This has provided a much more reliable service.

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Enhancement Proposal: In order to enhance the webcam experience and make it more informative and enjoyable to the viewing public, the plan is to install a close-in bullet camera—to be attached to the nesting pole, where it can look down (at a shallow angle) on the nest. Night vision infrared and an outdoor microphone would also be added to enhance the viewing experience. The bullet camera would be operated in tandem with the present zoom camera...one giving an up close and personal view and the other the wide-angle view.

The new proposal also included extending the current electrical line another 100 yards from the camera pole to the nest pole. This electrical line has already been installed. The work was completed the third week of September. It is sealed in construction-grade PVC, and buried. The electrical alignment will be underwater for part of the year.



The Friends of Deer Flat and Fiberpipe Internet Service will continue to host the website. The Friends will expand and promote educational materials for classroom use in Canyon County, Idaho. The project will enhance ongoing environmental education programs held at the refuge such as: Scout Days, Summer Day Camps, and could be tied into the ongoing "Discover Wildlife Journeys," which the Friends support with busing scholarships.

Why is the project important? Enhancement of the osprey webcam will promote and boost local and national interest in the osprey nests at Deer Flat NWR. It will enhance the birding and natural history learning experiences for refuge visitors, especially local school children, scouting groups, and birding organizations. It will help educate local communities about the valuable natural resources that reside at Deer Flat NWR.

The osprey webcam serves residents of SW Idaho and refuge visitors from around the state, the nation, and the world. Last fiscal year (FY2014) over 7,000 people came to the Refuge Visitor Center. In past years that number has exceeded 13,000. Since the webcam streaming video is shown on the TV in the visitor center lobby, many of those visitors are drawn to experience it. In the past four years there have been over 10,000 hits per year on the live-streaming video internet site. We expect this interest to more than double as we provide live, up-close video of the hatching and early rearing activities at the osprey nest.

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Example of Bullet Camera & Boom Attached to Nest Pole

2014 Membership Application

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Please fill out this page and return with a check payable to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Telephone



Goose Eggs & Golf Ball

Email address
(please include email address if you have one – this is our primary means of communicating with Friends members)

Annual Membership Categories:

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

TOTAL

All contributions are tax deductible.

Friends Activities

Please Mark the Activities that Interest you:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Habitat enhancement | Public relations |
| Staffing the bookstore | Grant writing |
| Greeting Refuge visitors | Lobby on behalf of the Refuge |
| Helping organize an event | Be an officer in Friends group |
| Litter pickup | Other _____ |
| Weed eradication | |
| Education events | |
| Photography | |
| Publicity | |

For more information, contact the
refuge at 467-9278 or

Email: deerflat@fws.gov

Website:
<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/index.html>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/DeerFlatNWR>

Executive Board:

- Noreen Tripp, President
- Lyndell Jackson, Vice President
- Kathleen McCarter, Secretary
- Genevieve Johannsen, Treasurer



Refuge photo courtesy of Robert Allen