

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter • December 2011

What's new?

December marks the last month of my internship as the Volunteer Coordinator at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. I want to thank all of you for your dedicated and wonderful service this past year. I learned a lot about the Refuge and wildlife from working with and talking to you fantastic volunteers. Please provide a warm welcome to the new Volunteer Coordinator, Kash Anderson, who will be starting on January 17th, 2012. With this transition it is more important than ever for you to let us know how you would like to be involved at the Refuge so we don't lose anyone in the shuffle! Please let us know if there is a volunteer activity you want to help with or you have an idea for a new activity that you think it would be great to add. Between December 17th and January 16th direct your questions and comments to Susan Kain at 467-9278 or susan_kain@fws.gov and she will do her best to help you.

Cheers!

Thank you to all the volunteers who attended this year's volunteer appreciation luncheon in November. I hope you enjoyed the food and the company of fellow volunteers. For those who were unable to attend, I am proud to announce that Lynn Wilfling was selected as this year's Outstanding Deer Flat Volunteer. Lynn helps host the visitor center on Saturdays, runs the front desk on Monday mornings, volunteers for big Refuge events, performs various office duties, prepares Environmental Education materials, helps run the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest, and so much more. Congratulations Lynn, and thank you for your many years of great Refuge service!

Around the water cooler...

The Refuge Staff has been working around the clock on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan and are revising the preliminary draft alternatives and writing a draft. Planning Update #4 came out in late October, so please click here to read it and find out more about the CCP:

<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/refugeplanning.html>. If you are interested in being on the CCP mailing list, please contact the Refuge at 467-9278 or email deerflat@fws.gov.



Lynn Wilfling, Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

I would like to thank the Friends group for their support and hard work this year. Thanks to the Friends, local schools received bus scholarships to bus students to on-site field trips, the Osprey webcam was improved, colorful wildlife cutouts were created and attracted visitors to our Creepy Critters event, National Wildlife Refuge Week was celebrated with a Big Sit birding event, and more. If you enjoy volunteering and want to support the Refuge is another way come the New Year, then think about becoming a Friends member. If you are already a member, remember that membership make great holiday gifts! **For more information about membership or Friends volunteering, contact Genevieve Johannsen at gcj_83651@yahoo.com or 891-5103.**



Upcoming Events

Wild About Life Lecture Series: Tuesday, December 13th, 7 PM. *Insects as Indicators of a Healthy Ecosystem*. Ashley Rohde, a USGS employee and graduate student from BSU, will discuss the effects of fire disturbance and rehabilitation treatments on insect communities in sagebrush-steppe habitats. This is a free presentation and will take place at the Visitor Center.

Winter Day Camp: Wednesday and Thursday, December 28th and 29th from 1-4pm. Do you have kids or grandkids in 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade with nothing to do over winter break? Sign them up to learn about wildlife winter survival skills! **Deadline to register: December 16th**



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Visitor Center Hosts (2 volunteers per Saturday)

Date and Time: Saturdays throughout the New Year, 10am-4pm

Help keep the Visitor Center open on Saturdays. 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: Tuesday, December 13th**

Winter Day Camp Helper (1 volunteer)

Dates and Times: Tuesday and Wednesday, December 28th and 29th from 1-4 PM. Help chaperone and take pictures of children in second through fourth grades as they learn about hibernation, migration and the challenges of survival in winter. No experience necessary. **Deadline to Register: December 19**

Scout Day Leaders (3-4 volunteers per month)

Dates and Time: 1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. Upcoming date: February 4th. A free environmental education opportunity for Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Volunteers lead programs that include crafts and a short hike. No experience necessary—only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn! **Deadline to register: Ongoing**



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

Dates and Time: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays (10:00am) and Wednesdays (2:00pm) of the month

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

Wildlife Artist (1-2 volunteers)

Dates and Times: At your convenience

Calling all artists! Would you be interested in lending your artistic talent towards the Refuge? We are looking to create volunteer awards for future recognition events, and we would like to have a drawings of wildlife etched onto these awards. If you enjoy drawing and would like to draft up some wildlife art, think about volunteering! **Deadline to register: Ongoing.**

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

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Cody Dix, Volunteer Coordinator