

# Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • February 2014

## **Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities!**

Volunteers are especially needed for the following projects: **Scout Day** (lead programs for young boy and girl scouts) and **Collecting Owl Pellets** (deliver pellets that you find, or let us know where to find some to collect ourselves). See next page for more information.

## **What's New?**

**The sun came out!** Oh, and also, happy lunar new year.

## **Cheers!**

Thanks to all the volunteers who have been keeping bird feeders full at the Visitor Center this winter. The birds (and bird watchers) appreciate your efforts. Thanks also to Noreen and the Friends of Deer Flat for coordinating those feeding efforts. Finally, thanks to folks who have donated bird seed!

Thanks to Lynn for her friendly and consistent service as a Monday morning Visitor Center Host. We so appreciate her dedication (and willingness to help with just about anything we ask!).

**Around the water cooler...** Staff are beginning to plan a new nature trail loop. Starting this spring, there will be a closed area around the nesting osprey. This new trail will allow people to continue to enjoy the trail during nesting season. Stay tuned for more information, or let us know if you have ideas.

## **Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge**

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports the Refuge in many ways. See below for more information about their anniversary event on February 22. Friends' memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. **For more information about Friends volunteering or membership, contact [friendsofdf@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofdf@yahoo.com).**

## **Upcoming Events**

***Unless otherwise stated, all activities take place at the Refuge Visitor Center***

**Wild About Life Lecture Series—Tuesday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**

**Hike Safe: How to Recreate Safely in Bear/Lion/Wolf Country.** Do you have plans for a vacation or activity outdoors? Learn the precautions to take when hiking and camping in areas with large predators, how to identify predator sign to avoid encounters, and what to do if you encounter a large predator. Jennifer Struthers, Idaho Fish and Game.

**Junior Duck Stamp Art Day—Feb 8, 15, 10AM-4PM**

K-12 students are invited to drop in to draw, have fun and learn about Idaho waterfowl. All art supplies are provided for them to create their own Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest entry. **Junior Duck Stamp entries for the 2014 contest are due by March 15, 2014.**

**105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Deer Flat NWR—Saturday, Feb 22, 1-4:30PM**

Discover 105 fun things to do at the Refuge. Enjoy speakers, crafts and face painting, bird and wildlife watching, and a photo walk (weather permitting). Coffee and pastries provided by Flying M Coffee Garage.



Birds appreciating the efforts of volunteers and Friends (Photo USFWS)



"Lake Lowell pavilion behind Floyd & George Walradt" Is boating one of the 105 ways you enjoy the Refuge? (Photo provided by Glenda Janssen)



## **Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!**

### **Scout Day (2-3 volunteers per month)**

**Date and Time: Upcoming dates: March 1<sup>st</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>, and May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

We need volunteers to **lead programs that include nature crafts and a short hike.** This free opportunity allows Scouts to earn various wildlife-related badges. No experience necessary—only a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn!

**Deadline to register: Ongoing**

### **Collecting owl pellets (as many volunteers as possible)**

**Dates: Ongoing**

Help! Kids love to dissect owl pellets, and learn a lot from doing so. Unfortunately, we've used up almost all of our stash, so we need more! **If you find owl pellets or know where you can get them,** please bring them to the Visitor Center or let us know where to look.

## **Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Wood Duck Box Survey (3-5 volunteers per day)**

**Dates and Times: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am-3:00pm**

Help survey, clean, and repair some of the over 100 wood duck boxes at Lake Lowell. *Register soon—this fills up quickly!*

**Deadline to register: February 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders (2-3 volunteers each trip)**

**Dates and Times: Tuesdays-Thursdays from April to May, 9:30am-2:30pm**

Help influence the next generation of conservationists by connecting them with nature! Volunteers help 4th-6th graders *Discover Wildlife Journeys* during field trips near the Visitor Center. No experience necessary—just enthusiasm, a love of kids, and a willingness to learn. **Deadline to register: mid-March.** Training will be held in late March or early April.

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

**Dates and Time: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays (10:00am and 2:00pm)**

Help free up Kacey's time to do classroom programs. We are seeking volunteers to select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts, and lead the storytelling and craft making. **Deadline to register: Ongoing.**

### **Earth Day Work Day (many volunteers)**

**Dates and Time: Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 9-noon**

Celebrate Earth Day at Deer Flat! Crew leaders needed, as well as people to join crews to improve habitat for wildlife by removing noxious weeds and litter, and maybe more.

**Deadline to register: Crew leaders: March 23; Crew members: April 13.**

### **Visitor Center Host (2 volunteers per Saturday)**

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

Volunteers make it possible for the Refuge Visitor Center to be open every Saturday. If you enjoy interacting with people and sharing wildlife stories with visitors, then this might be the opportunity for you! We also sometimes have Visitor Center Hosts on weekdays. Training is provided.



Photo USFWS/Jennifer Brown-Scott



Kacey reading to preschoolers at Reading at the Refuge (Photo USFWS/Paige Engelbrektsson)

**To find out more about or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, contact Susan Kain or Kacey Kai at [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) or (208)-467-9278.**

**Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!**