

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • May 2014

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities!

Volunteers are especially needed for the following projects: **Outreach Volunteer** (staff Refuge booth at on- or off-site events), **BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day** (staff craft and activity tables, teach kids to fish, and more), and **Summer Day Camp Helper** (help lead activities and/or chaperone students throughout the day). See next page for more information.

What's New?

A trail! If you've visited recently, you may have seen flags marking the new pollinator garden spur of the Nature Trail. Thanks to crews from Bishop Kelly High School and at Earth Day Work Day, the trail needs just a bit more work. Next time you're out this way, check out the new trail...and see the next page for an opportunity to help finish it.

Cheers!

Cheers to the well over 200 volunteers and volunteer crew leaders who made Earth Day Work Day a huge success by collecting 40 bags of litter, removing over 100 poison hemlock and many thousands of white bryony plants, sprucing up the wildlife-friendly Visitor Center landscaping, and working on the new trail. Thanks!

Cheers to the Nampa Christian Middle School crew for spring cleaning the Centennial and Nature Trails, to Gabriel's Eagle Scout crew for improving habitat at Rambo pond, and to the pollinator garden Eagle Scout crew.

Around the water cooler... A big Deer Flat welcome to Jim and Bronwen, RV volunteers who will be volunteering through mid-June. Thanks for joining us! Also, with recent staff reductions, the staff of the Southeast Idaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex has stepped in to help fill in some gaps. Thanks to Tracy, John, Janet, and Russ.

Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports the Refuge in many ways, including providing morning snacks and pizza for Earth Day Work Day volunteers. Friends memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. Friendsofdfwr@gmail.com for info about membership or getting involved.



Volunteers from Human Kind Project and Southwest Airlines working on the new trail with Kacey at Earth Day Work Day. © Jim Soukup



Monstrous white bryony roots dug up on Earth Day (and many smaller roots in the background). See next page for an opportunity to dig up more monsters like this! © Steve Kehoe

Upcoming Events

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

Wild About Life Lecture Series—Tuesday, May 13th 7 PM

The Status of Sage Grouse. The greater sage grouse is currently listed as a candidate for the Endangered Species List. Find out what threats have led to this current status as well as about their biology and habitat from Jason Pyron, a Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Idaho Fish and Game Fishing Trailer—Saturday, May 31 10AM-2PM at Gotts Point

Interested in fishing but don't have the proper equipment or know-how? Borrow a pole and get a lesson!

Friends Volunteer Social—Thursday, June 19 6:30PM-8:30PM

The Friends of Deer Flat invites you for refreshments and a "garden party" to appreciate you for your service.



Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

Outreach Volunteer (4-5volunteers)

Reach out to the community to help others discover what the Refuge has to offer by staffing a booth at off-site (and one on-site) events. Currently recruiting for:

- **Nampa Farmers Market** (3rd Saturday of each month from 8:30am-1:30pm, starting May 17th)
- **Nampa Head Start Open House** (Tuesday, May 20th at 6 PM)—*need volunteer to take the lead!*
- **Nampa Public Library Reading Kickoff Party** (Saturday, May 31st from 9:30-1:30)
- **Idaho Fish and Game Fishing Trailer** (Saturday, May 31st from 10-2 at *Gotts Point*)—*fishing experience required!*

Let us know if you can help at these events and/or if you want to be notified about future outreach opportunities.

BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day (40-50 volunteers)— June 13th and 14th

These annual events are just around the corner. We need your help to **staff various craft and activity tables, shuttle visitors, help youngsters with fishing, wear the Blue Goose costume, and more.** Help us show how special Deer Flat is to families and friends, and enjoy the fun events as well! Request a registration form now! **Deadline to register: June 1st**

Day Camp Helpers (2-3 volunteers)

Dates: Biodiversity Basics Camp, 6/23-6/27 and Desert Detectives Camp, 7/14-7/18

Help Kacey run one of our summer day camps for kids! Volunteers are needed to **help lead activities and/or chaperone students throughout the day.** Camps run 9-12:30 each day. **Deadline to register: June 6th**

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Weed Warriors (need as many volunteers as possible!)

Dates and Time: Saturday, May 10, 8am-noon and later dates to be arranged.

Help battle noxious weeds to improve wildlife habitat. We have a crew leader, but need a crew to join him to spray or manually remove noxious weeds. It's a great excuse to get out and enjoy the spring! **Deadline to Register: May 8th**



2013 Biodiversity Basics Day Camp volunteer reading to campers. (USFWS)

Maintenance Assistant (1-2 volunteers)

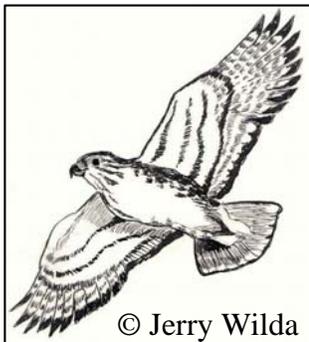
Dates and Times: Mondays-Thursdays in May and early June

Help RV volunteer Jim fix the Visitor Center irrigation and catch up on many other projects. **Deadline to register: ASAP**

Weekday Visitor Center Host (10-12 volunteers)

Dates and Times: Weekdays. Shifts 8am-noon, noon-4pm...or whatever fits best in your schedule!

Fewer Refuge staff means that we could really use some help on weekdays answering phones, greeting and assisting visitors, and doing various office projects. Training is provided. Let us know if you want *the same shift each week* or would prefer to *fill in when needed*. **Deadline to register: Ongoing, but we need help ASAP!**



Artist (Dates and Times: Flexible)

We are seeking an artist to draw simple, realistic local wildlife. The art will be etched onto glasses for volunteer recognition. **Deadline: Art completed in June or July**

Recycler (Dates and Times: Flexible)

Help out by running Visitor Center recycling to the recycling center about once per month. **Deadline: Ongoing**

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

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!