

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter • November 2011

What's new?

Fall is in full swing at the Refuge. The shoreline of the lake is scattered with plenty of pretty gold leaves. Come visit soon to see the fall colors before it is too late! And chances are, you just might see some amazing wildlife migrating and getting ready for the winter season.

The Refuge now has a new, improved, and updated bird list! This list was compiled and organized in part by dedicated Refuge volunteers. Come on into the center to pick one up for free or download the brochure here:

<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/PDF/BirdList.pdf>

If you've been by our visitor center lately, you've noticed the construction going on at the side of the building. Additional offices and a conference room are being added to the building, and the construction crew is wrapping up the project.

Cheers!

Many thanks go out to all of our wonderful Creepy Critter Encounter volunteers: Annette Collette, Christina Byrne, Bob Faller, Sheryl Faller, Andrea Bonadiman, Robert Allen, Rachel Staats, Dave Staats, Dave Conrad, Steve Kehoe, Hollie Leavitt, Barb Forderhase, and the Job Corps crew. Thank you so much for helping run wildlife stations, telling stories, greeting visitors, creating crafts, and managing the parking lot. Thanks to you, nearly 500 people left the Refuge with smiles on their faces (and candy in their bellies). Bravo!

Cheers to Cheryl Huizinga and Genevieve Johannsen for running the first ever Big Sit bird survey at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Thank to them and all the birders who attended for celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week in a new and unique way.



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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 just last week, 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.

Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Did you notice those fantastic wildlife cutouts at the top of the entrance road to our Visitor Center last month? Those fun and colorful cutouts were provided in part by our volunteer Friends of Deer Flat group. These critters helped draw many families to our Creepy Critter Event, so thank you Friends!!! This is one example of many successful and great projects that the Friends have lead. If you enjoy volunteering and want to support the Refuge is another helpful way, think about becoming a Friends member. **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, November 8th, 7 PM

Naked Canaries: An Exploration of the Beauty and Biology of Amphibians: Dr. John Cossel from Northwest Nazarene University will share a photographic exploration about the beauty and biology of amphibians, the causes of their decline, and a message for all audience members to take home. This is a free presentation and will take place at the Visitor Center.

Volunteer Luncheon: Saturday, November 12th, 12 PM

If you volunteered between October 2010 and September 2011, then you are invited to our end-of-year volunteer recognition luncheon. Come grab some grub as a thank you for your volunteer service. This year's luncheon will be held at the Visitor Center. **If you received an invitation, please remember to RSVP by Monday, November 7th!**



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Environmental Education Outreach (1-2 volunteers)

Dates and Times: Tuesday, November 15th and Thursday, November 17th from 6:00-7:30pm. Join Environmental Education Specialist Kyle Luthman, or another volunteer to run a booth to spread the word about Deer Flat's Environmental Program at two schools in Caldwell. Training will be provided. **Deadline to register: Thursday, November 10th**

Visitor Center Hosts (2 volunteers)

Date and Time: Friday, November 25 from 10am-4pm (or 8-4 if possible) Help keep the Visitor Center open the day after Thanksgiving. 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: Friday, November 18th**

Scout Day Leaders (3-4 volunteers per month)

Dates and Time: 1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. Upcoming date: December 3rd. 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 craftmaking. **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 cody_dix@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Cody Dix, Volunteer Coordinator