

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter October 2010

What's new?

Although the hummingbirds are gone we can still enjoy one last sight of them in this beautiful picture. It feels like we are officially entering the autumn season and the refuge wildlife is getting ready for it. Pheasant hunting opens on the 16th along with Goose and Deer on the Snake River Islands later in the month. We will be celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week soon which includes a Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge event on Saturday, October 9th from 4:30 PM - 8 PM. Sadly my Americorps term is coming to an end on December 17th. That means Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge is currently recruiting for the next Volunteer Coordinator intern. If you or anyone you know are interested in the position, visit <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/amicorps.html> for more information.



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Cheers!

Thanks to Steve K. for helping with National Public Lands Day and being one of the best all-around volunteers. Thanks to Kris H. who also helped with National Public Lands Day and has led our Weed Warriors program almost every month this year! Thanks to our

drug court volunteers, and their leader, without whom the entire refuge would be a canopy of Russian Olive trees by now. Many thanks to all of the duck banding volunteers who did such a great job and came out so early to help us band. Our final numbers from the day were 99 Mallards, 6 Pintails and 80 Teals. Thanks to Garrison C. for coming through so spectacularly on the Creepy Critter sound bytes!

Around the water cooler...

Keeping track of your volunteer hours

Lately I have been asking you for your volunteer hours a lot. I realize you may not know why exactly or you don't particularly care. You volunteer because you enjoy it and not to accumulate hours! So I thought I would explain a bit. I would like you to keep track of your volunteer hours because the Refuge:

- Rewards you at the end-of-year volunteer recognition awards luncheon.
- Is required to submit volunteer data to the FWS so they can determine our funding for the following year.
- Uses those hours as in-kind and matching donations to apply for grants that help us do things like run our *Discover Wildlife Journeys* Field Trip program and bring in full-time AmeriCorps volunteers like myself and interns like our new EE Specialist Claire.

Comprehensive Conservation Plan Update

During the week of September 20th, the refuge held two work sessions to brainstorm ideas to assist in the development of preliminary draft alternatives for the CCP. Topics discussed included surface water recreation, upland recreation, and hunting at the Lake Lowell Unit of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Participation in the work sessions involved citizens who have offered ideas for future management, members of non-profit organizations, members of the CCP Interagency Coordinating Team and Extended Team, and agency partners.



October 2010 Upcoming Events:

Celebration of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge: Saturday, October 9th starting at 4:30pm

The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge are hosting an event to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week. Food and drinks will be available for purchase while you listen to the tunes of the Clever Tones and the tales of Teddy Roosevelt.

Wild About Life Lecture Series: Tuesday, October 12th starting at 6:00pm

Making the Most of Your Outdoor Photos: Bring your camera to explore the world of photography in nature with professional photographer and refuge volunteer Mike Shipman. Learn basic concepts of photography followed by a hands-on photo scavenger hunt where you can test your newly-learned skills.

****Mark your calendars**

Volunteer Awards Luncheon: Saturday, November 13th starting at 12pm

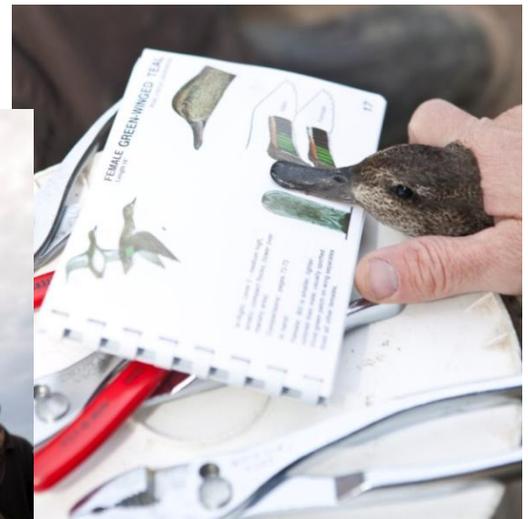
If you volunteered between October 2009 and September 2010 then you are invited to join the Refuge staff at Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant located at 2101 North Cassia Street in Nampa right off of Karcher Road and next to the Edwards Cinema. We will be showering you with appreciation for all that you do as volunteers for the Refuge. Buffet lunch and soft drinks will be provided so come hungry! **Keep an eye out for your invitation; RSVP required!**



Photo/USFWS



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October 2010 Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Weed Warriors (as many volunteers as possible!)

October 16th, 9-11am. The last one in the season! Get your weekend workout removing invasive weeds to improve wildlife habitat. **No registration required.**

Waterfowl Data Entry (5-6 volunteers)

Immediate start. Interpret data sheets from 1968 to the present day and enter into database. This will help us see trends better and therefore evaluate the management of the Lake Lowell and Snake River Islands to encourage more nesting waterfowl. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

Scout Day (3-4 volunteers per month)

1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. **Upcoming dates: December 4th, January 8th and February 5th.** A free environmental education opportunity for Scouts to earn various wildlife-related badges. Volunteers lead programs that include nature crafts and a short hike. No experience necessary—only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn! **Deadline to express interest for December 4th Scout Day: Friday, October 22nd**

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

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10am and the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm. A free wildlife focused storytelling hour for pre-schoolers. Volunteers select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts and conduct reading and craft. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

Creepy Critter Encounters (10 volunteers for event) **Coming up soon!**

Saturday, October 23rd from 4-7pm. A fun Halloween event for kids and kids at heart. Come in costume to learn about wildlife on a spooky hike, make crafts, and listen to scary stories. Find out about creepy creatures like bats, skunks, spiders and owls. Stay until dusk and hoot for owls and coyotes. Volunteers are needed to staff the welcome table, craft room and act as guides at wildlife-related stations along the nature trail. **Deadline to register: Monday, October 11th**

Winter Day Camp (2-3 volunteers for 2 days)

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 28th and 29th from 1-4pm (additional training required and provided). Do squirrels have sleeping bags? Do bears have space heaters? Do geese eat at restaurants? Help teach children in second through fourth grades about hibernation, migration and the challenges of survival in winter. No experience necessary, training will be provided. **Deadline to express interest: Monday, November 1st**

Unless otherwise stated, all activities take place at the Visitor Center of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. If you are interested in finding out more information or participating in any of the above programs, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at deerflat@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.



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Thanks again and see you at the refuge!

Lauren Roden, Volunteer Coordinator

