

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • October 2011

What's new?

Fall is here! Don't let the cooler temperatures and shorter days limit your outdoor adventures, because fall is a great time to watch wildlife at the Refuge. Many birds are starting their migratory journeys and are stopping at Deer Flat along the way...

Additionally, my term is coming towards an end here soon. If you or somebody you know would like to be the next volunteer coordinator intern come January, please share this link with them:

<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/amicorps.html>. Applications are due by Oct. 28!

Cheers!

I would like to thank our wonderful duck banding volunteers who helped identify and tag over 360 ducks this year! They got up before dawn to help out with the event and were a lively bunch of folks. Thank you Bruce Ackerman, Stephanie Beh, Andrea Bonadiman, Darin and Cyndi Bruce, Bob Christensen, Todd Fenzl, Jeff Knetter, Roy Kyle, Kyle Luthman, Lawrence Prow, Oliver Reign, Kurt Stieglitz, George Valentine, and Susan Werner.

I would also like to thank all 67 volunteers who lent a hand with National Public Lands Day on September 24! Volunteers removed litter from several popular spots around the Refuge to help protect wildlife and to improve the cleanliness of the Refuge. And thank you to Kris Horton for helping hand out materials for the event. Their efforts were even highlighted in the Idaho Press-Tribune!

Around the water cooler...

The Refuge Staff is working around the clock on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan and are revising the preliminary draft alternatives and writing a draft. For the latest information and to read Planning Updates, click here:

<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/refugeplanning.html>. The next planning update is expected to be out by the end of this month. 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

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge has a non-profit Friends group called Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. This all-volunteer group helps the Refuge by coordinating volunteer projects, hosting events, and raising funds and writing grants for Refuge projects (such as our great Discover Wildlife Journey field trip series). If you enjoy volunteering, appreciate the Refuge, and want to help even more, think about becoming a Friends member! Membership starts at \$10, and all contributions are tax deductible. **For more information about membership or Friends volunteering, contact Genevieve Johannsen at gcj_83651@yahoo.com or 891-5103.**

Upcoming Events

The Big Sit 2011: Sunday, October 9th, 7 AM – 7 PM

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week by counting and watching birds. Participants can sign up for an hour timeslot (or more) and will sit in a big circle on the Visitor Center lawn listening and watching for birds. Field guides and binoculars will be available for checkout, but we do encourage you to bring chairs and snacks. To sign up or learn more, contact Cody Dix or Cheryl Huizinga from Southwest Idaho Birders Association (bchuizinga@cableone.net or 208-880-5687).



Photo courtesy of Cody Dix



Wild About Life Lecture Series: Tuesday, October 11th, 7 PM

A Peek into the Life of Someone Who Studies Life: Our refuge biologist, Addison Mohler, will share why he chose this profession and what research projects he has been involved with ranging from invertebrates to mountain lions. This is a free presentation and will take place at the Visitor Center.

Creepy Critter Encounters: Saturday, October 29th, 4-6:30 PM

See volunteer opportunity below for more information.

Volunteer Luncheon: Saturday, November 12th, 12 PM

If you volunteered between October 2010 and September 2011 then you are invited to our end of the 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. Keep an eye out for your invitation and more details. RSVP required.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Creepy Critter Encounters (20 volunteers for event)

Date and Time: Saturday, October 29th from 4-6:30pm. A fun Halloween event for kids and kids at heart. Come in costume to see live owls, reptiles, and insects, 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 17th**



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Scout Day Leaders (3-4 volunteers per month)

Dates and Time: 1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm.

Upcoming date: November 5th. 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: October 22**

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.**

Planning Update 4 Labeling and Postage Helpers (1-2 volunteers)

Dates and Times: TBD, mid to late October. Things are moving along with the CCP, and we are preparing to update people on what's going on! Planning Update 4 will be released later this month, and we need some help labeling and applying postage on postcards and Planning Updates so they can be mailed quickly to folks. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

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

Dates and Times: Tuesday and Wednesday, December 28th and 29th from 1-4pm. 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. Need a camp co-leader who will need to do some pre-camp work, as well as helpers during camp. **Deadline to express interest: November 19**

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