

# Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

## Volunteer Newsletter September 2010

### What's new?

The cool mornings are still giving way to the summer heat and let's hope it lasts! The water levels are just right for shorebirds to be seen and it's almost that time to start filling the bird feeders around the visitor center. Hunting season opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> for Mourning Doves and subsequent seasons will begin opening as we go through the month and into October. Last but not least we are very pleased to welcome the new Environmental Education Specialist, Claire Deters, to the refuge as an intern of the Friends group. Thank you to Claire and to the Friends for bringing such a talented and enthusiastic educator to the refuge!



Fawn hanging around the shop  
Photo by Addison Mohler

### Cheers!

Many thanks to all of you for the time, energy and commitment you give to helping the refuge and wildlife. Special thanks go to Don D., Noreen T., Dixie B., Genevieve J., Bob C. and the Friends of Deer Flat for making such beautiful improvements to the Hummingbird/Butterfly Garden behind the visitor center, and thanks to Robert A. for photo-documenting it. Come and take a look!

### Around the water cooler...

#### *Comprehensive Conservation Plan*

Refuge staff continues to work tirelessly on the comprehensive conservation planning process including extensive outreach to inform and encourage comments from the public and local organizations and agencies. The refuge is accepting public comments until September 10<sup>th</sup> about refuge management issues important to you and your community. Once completed, the CCP will guide refuge management for 15 years. It will ensure that we manage the refuge in accordance with the purposes of Deer Flat NWR and the policies and mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. You may have read a lot about the "Closing of Lake Lowell" in the media lately. Rest assured that no decisions have been made and the refuge is genuinely trying to get as much public input as possible to develop the best plan for the future. If you have questions or would like to submit a comment please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. If you would like to submit a comment you may do so by emailing [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov), calling 467-9278 or mailing a written comment to 13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686. We hope to hear from you!



Nesting Grebe  
Photo by Addison Mohler



## **September 2010 Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**

### **Weed Warriors (as many volunteers as possible!)**

September 18<sup>th</sup> and October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9-11am. The only two left in the season! Get your weekend workout removing invasive weeds to improve wildlife habitat. **No registration required.**

### **Litter's not for Critters! (as many volunteers as possible!)**

Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2-5pm. Celebrate National Public Lands Day by improving wildlife habitat at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers will be picking up litter around Lake Lowell while enjoying some fresh air and the sights and sounds of wildlife on the refuge. **Please pre-register by Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **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)**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. 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 willingness to learn! **Deadline to register: Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **Wild About Life Lecture Series (1 volunteer)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday every month. Assist environmental education specialist plan, promote and run the monthly wildlife focused lecture series. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

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

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10am and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

### **Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trips (1-4 volunteers per field trip)**

Starting this fall the refuge, in partnership with Canyon County Parks, Recreation, and Waterways and Northwest Nazarene University, will be offering a new field trip curriculum called Discover Wildlife Journeys. Volunteers will guide students through one or two of the field trip stations, which include stations about birds, aquatic invertebrates (including sampling from the lake!), terrestrial invertebrates, and using microscopes to see the unseen. No experience necessary, only a love of kids, your enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn! Field trips will be offered Tuesdays-Thursdays in September, October, March, April, and May. **Deadline to register: Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** training to be held at **9am September 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**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](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) or (208)-467-9278.**

**Thanks again and see you at the refuge!**

*Lauren Roden, Volunteer Coordinator*

