

Shoreline

Newsletter of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Deer Flat: A Winter Photography Resource

Photographers of all levels should mark their calendars for two upcoming refuge events.

Professional photographer, wildlife biologist, and refuge volunteer Mike Shipman will present the free, January 13th Wild About Life Lecture. Attendees will learn about photographic opportunities at the refuge and discover the refuge from a different perspective through a multi-media slide show of refuge images.

On January 31st, Mike will return to lead a winter photo workshop, sponsored by the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. Topics will include winter subjects, composition and exposure, and equipment

and preparedness for winter photography. After a morning classroom session, participants



will head outside with their cameras.

The January 31st workshop is \$125, which includes lunch. For more information, contact Mike Shipman (466-9340). To register, bring or send a check to Friends of Deer Flat, 13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686.

Winter & Spring 2009
Volume 5, No. 1



A crack in the ice on Lake Lowell

*All photos copyright
Mike Shipman*



Halloween at the Refuge

Ghouls and goblins gathered for coyotes. Nearly 150 people at the refuge in late October for Creepy Critter Encounters, an alternative to traditional Halloween fun.

Costumed participants went on a spooky hike to learn about creatures of the night, got their faces painted, made halloween crafts, and tried to call in owls and howl



Learning about herbivores before receiving a halloween treat



Costumed adventurers learn about owls from a refuge volunteer.

were delighted by this family friendly activity.

New AmeriCorps member Mia Puopolo organized the event, which was made possible by eight enthusiastic volunteers. We hope to continue the tradition in future years.

Wanted: Scout Day Volunteers

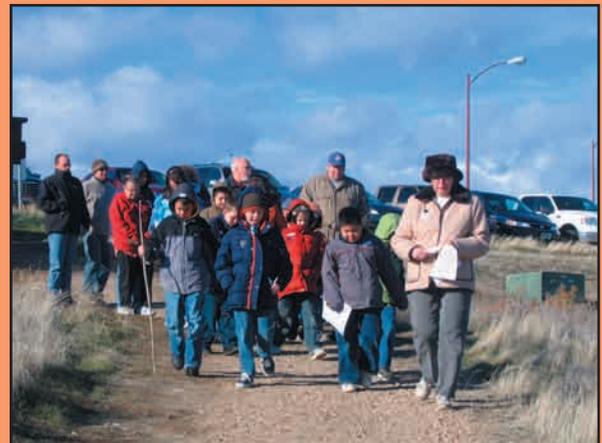
Who: You?

What: Register Scouts or teach them about birds, migration, endangered species, and more.

When: Scout Day is the first Saturday in September-May. Sign up for one or all.

Where: Refuge Visitor Center

Why: Help Scouts earn badges. Help make this popular activity possible



For more information: Contact Mia Puopolo
mia_puopolo@fws.gov or 208-467-9278

No experience necessary!

Help Needed to Plan Centennial Festivities

With the stroke of a pen on February 25th, 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt established Deer Flat National Wildlife

Refuge, realizing that a large reservoir in an arid region would be an oasis for wildlife.

Deer Flat was the 23rd National Wildlife Refuge established in a system

that now includes 548 refuges across the globe! One hundred years later, the refuge continues to serve as an oasis for

wildlife—and people too.

The refuge will celebrate the centennial of the refuge and reservoir throughout 2009.



Steam shovel loading dump cars with gravel for one of the Deer Flat embankments (1907, photo courtesy Bureau of Reclamation).

The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge is recruiting volunteers to help plan the festivities. If you have ideas for or would like to help plan centennial activities, you are invited

to a planning meeting at the refuge visitor center at 2 PM on Saturday, January 10.

"We hope community members will become involved in planning this once-in-a-lifetime event!"

*Elaine Johnson
Refuge Manager*



Refuge volunteer holding goose to be banded (1967, photo courtesy Bureau of Reclamation).

Care about wildlife?
Concerned about the refuge?
Then become a refuge volunteer!



Remove weeds



Staff the Visitor Center



Help survey geese



Pick up litter

Join in the fun

Attend one of the next volunteer orientations
January 22nd at 7 PM or January 24th at 2 PM

Please RSVP at 467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov

Young Artists Invited to Draw Ducks and Geese

Contact the refuge (467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov) or visit <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck> for contest information or to download the Junior Duck Stamp curriculum.

Be sure to submit your 2009 entry by March 15th!



One of the three First Place winners in the K-3 category, "Tranquil Reflections" by Mason Magee (age 9).

The time has come for students to start preparing their entries for the 2009 Idaho

Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest.

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest is part of a larger conservation education

program in which K-12 students learn about environmental science and habitat conservation by developing a design for the annual Junior Duck Stamp.

All Idaho students can enter

their duck stamp artwork into the statewide contest. Each participant receives a certificate,

and over twenty-five ribbons are awarded to winning entries in each age group: grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.



Wesley O'Bryan's water color drawing, "King Eider," won Best of Show in the 2008 Idaho Contest and Honorable Mention in the National Contest.

The Best of Show artwork from

Idaho is submitted to the national Junior Duck Stamp contest. The winning artwork in that contest adorns the next Junior Duck Stamp!

Earth Day Work Day

- Who:** You...and your friends & family!
- What:** Improve refuge habitat by removing litter or noxious weeds
- When:** Saturday, April 25
9 AM - Noon
- Where:** Refuge Visitor Center

- Bring gloves and water
- Wear clothes you can get dirty
- Bags & snacks provided
- Please pre-register



Come help wildlife and have fun!

Help Deer Flat NWR Plan For the Future

In late winter or early spring, the refuge will begin a formal planning process to review refuge management and public use.



Public and partner input about refuge management and public use issues will help refuge staff prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for both the Lake Lowell and Snake River Islands units. The CCP will guide refuge management for the next 15 years.

The CCP will reflect the purposes of the refuge and the mission, policies, and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The legislated purpose of Deer Flat NWR is to provide a refuge and breeding grounds for migratory birds and other wildlife, with a priority to provide nesting



and migratory habitat for waterfowl.

When Congress amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act in 1997, it incorporated the philosophy that “wildlife comes first” on refuges, which are managed for the long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

Congress also established six priority public uses to be allowed on National Wildlife Refuges when they are compatible with the needs of wildlife. Those six priority public uses are hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation. Activities that are not wildlife-dependent are not encouraged on refuges.

Your ideas and comments will provide fresh perspectives and be an important part of the planning process. We’d like to encourage you to participate. Please request to be on the CCP mailing list.

Call (208) 467-9278 or e-mail deerflat@fws.gov to be on the CCP mailing list.



Volunteers removing noxious weeds.

Refuge Scrapbook

Summer and Fall



BioBlitz 2008 festival (copyright Mike Morrison)



Annual volunteer appreciation lunch



Duck Banding
(copyright Mike Shipman)



Bird Watching at Biodiversity Basics Day Camp



Canada geese at Lake Lowell (copyright Mike Shipman)

Local wildlife needs *you*. Become a

WEED WARRIOR!



- Who:** You and your friends & family!
- What:** Remove invasive weeds to improve wildlife habitat. Help wildlife and have fun outside.
- When:** 9 AM–11 PM, 3rd Saturday of each month between March and October.
- Where:** Meet at the refuge Visitor Center with gloves, water, and a shovel.

Friends' Focus



Letter from the President:

With 2008 drawing to a close, now is a good time to assess our progress and accomplishments and make plans for next year. This was a great year for our bookstore, The Grebe Nest, with income of about \$1250.00. In May, the Friends had two events: a fun, relaxed Migratory Bird Day and a well-received "Dessert in the Desert" program for refuge neighbors. We sponsored a well-attended Canyon County Candidate Forum in April and a successful photography workshop in June. Bob Christensen created a terrific Powerpoint presentation that he took to several community groups to inform them about the Friends and the refuge. The Friends have also been working with refuge



Western Grebe (copyright Dick McKee)

staff on a "Preserve America" grant, which includes a Centennial Trail along the Upper Dam and an oral history project. This year we combined our end-of-year potluck with the refuge's annual volunteer appreciation luncheon on a lovely October Saturday.

Many of our members have been unable to participate actively in events and other projects, but they do want to support the refuge. As a result, the Board has chosen to focus on one major project for 2009: a grand Refuge Centennial

Celebration. See the article on page three about how to get involved in the planning. If you can't help organize, we hope to see you at the Centennial events!

The Friends will not hold general meetings in 2009, but you can talk to a Friends member at the refuge's "Wild About Life" lecture series to get an update on Friends' activities.

If you are currently a member, we encourage you to maintain your membership; if you aren't, we hope you'll consider joining for 2009. Without your financial support, we cannot accomplish the Friends' mission.

Thank you for your support,
Lyndell Jackson, President

Mission Statement: To promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Want to become a member, join a committee, or receive the Friends newsletter?
Then call Lyndell Jackson at 459-4740.

Winter Refuge Activities

January

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Jan. 7

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, Jan. 10

Centennial Planning Meeting

2 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Wild about Life Lecture

7 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Thursday, Jan. 22

Volunteer Orientation

7 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, Jan. 24

Volunteer Orientation

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, Jan. 31

Photo Workshop

8-1 PM, Visitor Center

Registration is required!

February

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Feb. 4

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, Feb. 7

Scout Day, must pre-register

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Wild about Life Lecture

7 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, Feb. 14

Great Backyard Bird Count

9 AM - 1 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Centennial Open House

Time TBA, Visitor Center

March

Tuesday, March 3

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, March 4

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, March 7

Scout Day, must pre-register

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, March 10

Wild about Life Lecture

7 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, March 17

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, March 18

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, March 21

Weed Warriors

9-11 AM, Visitor Center

WILD ABOUT LIFE LECTURE SERIES

A monthly lecture series offering something for everyone. Held usually on the second Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8 PM at the refuge Visitor Center. **Mark your calendar and tell your friends!**

Jan. 13

Deer Flat NWR: A Photographer's Resource

Discover the refuge from a different perspective (see cover article)

Feb. 10

Keeping Fire on Our Side

Learn about the history of fire and its use as a management tool.

March 10 Topic TBA

**WILD ABOUT LIFE
CO-SPONSORS:**



Spring Refuge Activities

April

Wednesday, April 1

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, April 4

Scout Day, must pre-register

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, April 7

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, April 14

Wild about Life Lecture

7 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, April 15

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, April 18

Weed Warriors

9-11 AM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, April 21

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Saturday, April 25

Earth Day Work Day

9 AM, Visitor Center

May

Saturday, May 2

Scout Day, must pre-register

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, May 5

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, May 6

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, May 9

Centennial Celebration

Details TBA

Tuesday, May 12

Wild about Life Lecture

7 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, May 16

Weed Warriors

9-11 AM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, May 19

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, May 20

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

June

Tuesday, June 2

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, June 3

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, June 13

Kids' Fishing Day

Details TBA

Tuesday, June 16

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, June 17

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, June 20

Weed Warriors

9-11 AM, Visitor Center

Mon.-Fri., June 22-26

Desert Detectives Day Camp

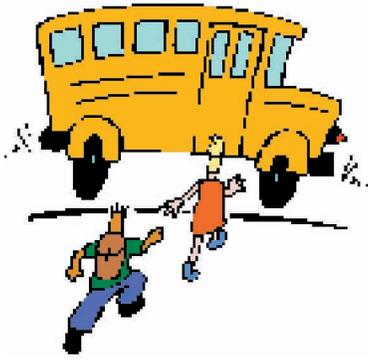
Registration required

Top Ten Reasons to Leash Dogs at the Refuge

- 10) Protect your dog from injury by wildlife.
- 9) Your dog won't scare other visitors.
- 8) Protect ground-nesting birds and mammals.
- 7) Protect your dog from injury by litter and thorny plants.
- 6) Allow wildlife-watching visitors to see more wildlife.
- 5) Reduce stress on wildlife. Even long after a dog has left an area, its scent may stress wildlife.
- 4) Protect wildlife by preventing waste of their already-limited energy reserves.
- 3) Protect wildlife from diseases and parasites spread through dog feces.
- 2) Obey the law and avoid a fine of up to \$100 per violation.
- 1) Your dog can wear fashionable leashes and collars!



Thanks!



Environmental Education

Classroom Programs

Bring the refuge to your classroom! Refuge staff will visit your school to present a standards-based, interactive environmental education program. Available programs include:

- Alien Invaders
- Animal Camouflage
- Ecosystems Alive
- Lessons from the Lorax
- Touch Trunk
- What Did the Owl Eat?

Traveling Trunks

Borrow free traveling trunks that contain everything you need to teach about a variety of topics, including:

- Bird Beaks
- FISH!
- Jaws and Levers
- Scat and Tracks

For a complete list of programs and trunks, visit the refuge website.

Field Trips

Visit Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Lowell for a standards-based environmental education activity or hands-on exploration of sagebrush upland, riparian, and lake habitats!

One Class?

Schedule a hike on the Nature Trail and/or an environmental education activity. All visits include time in the Visitor Center and a brief orientation to the refuge.

More than one class?

Large groups will be split into smaller groups and rotated through 3 or 4 stations. Stations include the Visitor Center, Nature Trail, and one or more outdoor environmental education activities. Each station lasts 20-25 minutes. The Visitor Center station includes an 11-minute refuge orientation video.

Pass it on!

Do you know someone who might be interested in a FREE, fun environmental education program? Then please pass on a copy of Shoreline or help them contact us at the refuge. Thanks for helping us spread the word about our programs!

For more information about other environmental education opportunities, including Scout programs, service learning, and community programs, please contact us at (208) 467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov

All programs, trunks, and field trips are FREE!

Want to know more?

Visit the refuge web site at <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/education.htm> for more information, including details about classroom programs and field trip FAQs.

Schedule a classroom program or field trip!

Phone: (208) 467-9278 e-mail: deerflat@fws.gov