



The Grebe

Volume 9, Issue 10

Spring 2013

Mission of The Friends of Deer Flat:

The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

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A note from the president...

Are you ready to enjoy summer? I hope your plans include time at the Refuge watching the Osprey and the Bald eagles and the many other birds on the lake and in the air. I have been so impressed with our birds of prey and their daily hunting activities.

Bio Blitz will take place on June 8th. We will have a booth and allow kids to paint more large wooden silhouettes. Bring the children and grandchildren and come join the fun! We have arranged for two food trucks to provide lunch and ice cream treats. The Friends will be selling the tickets and will receive a percent of sales, so your support is appreciated. June 8th is also Kids' Fishing Day. The event will be located at Gotts Point. The community has been very generous in its donations and the staff is excited about being able to send kids home with wonderful prizes and participation items.

On July 27th we will be hosting an ice cream social for volunteers and potential volunteers, as well as Friends members. Come learn about the projects, past—present—future that are planned to make the Refuge even more accessible and educational. AN RSVP is requested to guide our purchase of ice cream.

Looking ahead, National Wildlife Refuge Week is in October and it will have a kid's photography emphasis. We also plan to join with the Southwest Idaho Birders Association for another Big Sit event, so check the calendar and mark the dates on your calendar.

All of your officers and committee chairpersons have been working with the staff for several months to plan these events and activities and I want to thank them for picking up the ball and running with it when my schedule did not allow me time to be very involved. Please express your thanks to them, as well. We'd love to have you each adopt an activity or event to participate in and help with each year, so don't be shy. You've got great leadership and I hope you will take time to know them all better.

(continued on next page)

(continued from page 1: Message from the president)

I wish you all a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing many of you in July!



THE FRIENDS ORGANIZATION WELCOMES A NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Photo provided by
Robert Allen

It was suggested that since I'm the new newsletter editor, that I introduce myself and provide a brief background.

Even though I live in Boise, I still regard where I grew up, Rochester NY, as my hometown. My father and sister still reside there and I go back to visit every few years or so.

The first question most people ask after I tell them that I'm from Rochester is "how did you end up in Boise?" My brother moved to Phoenix many years ago and after I graduated from college (State University of New York at Plattsburgh, B.S. Accounting), I wanted a change of scenery and thought Phoenix would offer a stark contrast to what it's like living in northern New York State. I met my wife in Phoenix. She was originally from the Boise area and we would go to Boise to visit her family during the summer. We were both tired of the dreadful heat in Phoenix during the summer months and we decided to move to Boise. I have enjoyed living here ever since.

While my day job concerns a specialized area within accounting, my main interest is photography. If I'm not at the office, I'm usually doing something related to photography. Photography also served as my connection to the refuge. I read in the Idaho Statesman's Scene (in 2008) that a photography seminar was going to be offered at the refuge (by Mike Shipman which was sponsored by the Friends of DFWR). While I had been a landscape and portrait photographer prior to this, I wanted to learn more about nature photography in general. Then, Susan made an announcement during the seminar that they needed volunteer photographers to cover various events at the refuge. I volunteered to help cover the 2008 BioBlitz. Since then, I have covered a few other events including the 100 year anniversary and a few Creepy Critter events. For examples of my portraiture work, please go to www.IdahoPortraits.com

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the refuge and the Friends organization in a new capacity and I look forward to being the editor of The Grebe.

Mark your calendar...

Upcoming Events

BioBlitz 2013

Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8th
See page 4 for additional information

Kids' Fishing Day

Saturday, June 8th, 10 AM to 3 PM

Volunteer Social

Usually 2 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Biodiversity Basics Camp

9 AM -12:30 PM from July 8-12 at the refuge. **Must pre-register.**

Desert Detectives Critter Camp

9 AM -12:30 PM from July 22-26 at the Refuge **Must pre-register.**

Scout Day

Call 208-467-9278 if you have any questions or would like to attend. **Registration is required! Scout Day will begin again in Fall 2013**

Reading at the Refuge

Reading at the Refuge is held on the **first and third Mondays of each month at 10 AM and at 2 PM.**

For more information on all events, contact the refuge at 467-9278 or

Email: deerflat@fws.gov

Website:

<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/index.html>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DeerFlatNWR>

The *BioBlitz* 2013 Schedule

What: 24-hour intensive survey and celebration of biological diversity. Join us for Idaho's only BioBlitz...and one of the refuge's most popular events. While at the BioBlitz, you might want to also attend [Kids' Fishing Day](#).

Where: Throughout the refuge. BioBlitz central will be at the [Visitor Center](#). GPS and online directions are not correct--[find correct directions here](#).

When: June 7-8

BioBlitz Surveys: Scheduled surveys on Friday and Saturday throughout the refuge.

BioBlitz Festival: 10 AM - 3 PM Saturday. (Detailed event schedule will be posted as event approaches.)

Event schedule:

The event schedule is as follows. Activities marked with an asterisk require pre-registration--[email](#) or call (467-9278) to pre-register.

Friday, June 7th

7:00 AM Bird Surveys*

10:00 AM Aquatic invertebrate sampling*

7:00 PM Bat presentation

9:00 PM Small mammal trapping demonstration (setting traps)*

10:00 PM Deer spotlighting survey*

Saturday June 8th

7:00 AM Small mammal trapping demonstration (checking traps)

10:00 AM BioBlitz Festival and Kids' Fishing Day events begin

10:00 AM Boat trip to net fish* **FULL--WAIT LIST ONLY**

10:00 AM Introduction to birding walk

10:30 AM-2:30 PM Insect-collecting expeditions (every hour on the half hour)

11:00 AM Boat trip to net fish* **FULL--WAIT LIST ONLY**

11:00 AM Introduction to birding walk

12:00 PM Boat trip to net fish* **FULL--WAIT LIST ONLY**

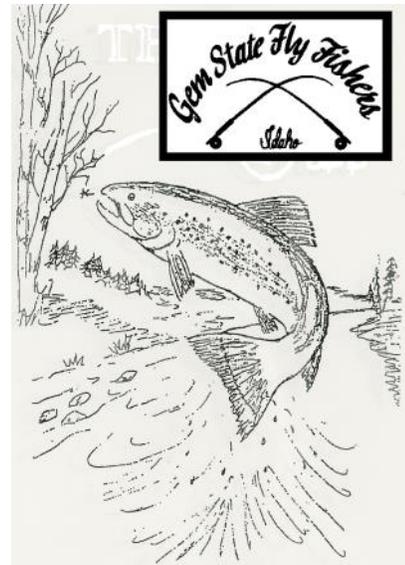
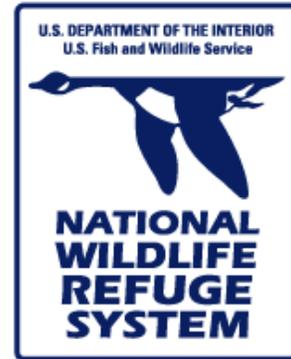
12:00 PM Introduction to nature photography walk

1:00 PM Plant walk (tentative)

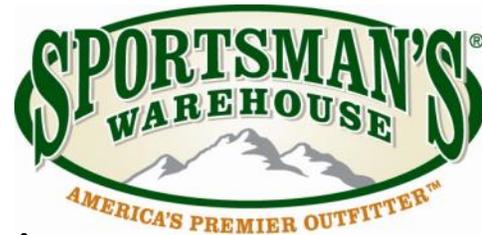
2:00 PM Introduction to nature photography walk

[Contact us](#) at 208-467-9278 if you have any questions.

Big thanks to these event partners!



Worm Factory



AAA Bait



Hummingbird Butterfly Garden A new name. A new look.

The Friends have been involved in the work of improving the Hummingbird/Butterfly garden beginning in May of 2009. The Friends started selling Engraved Bricks and placed our first order of bricks in October of 2009. The bricks are to become a walkway in the Garden.

Last year a need was identified, and that was a new addition for the refuge staff. This new space was needed, and now is very important to the staff. The building expansion encroached on the Garden. Currently there is no easy way to get to the garden to enjoy the hummers, the butterflies, or to see the bricks. This year (2013) we shall begin anew our venture to restore the Garden as the Friends have been given a new location for the Garden.

The Garden is given a new name, the Pollinator Garden.

The Friends will be working with a student from the U of I Extension Master Gardener Program. We will be starting work on our new location in mid June. When the area is cleaned and ready to plant, we will be using non-invasive native plants to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. The Bricks will be place in this new location by the end of summer.

Visitors will be able to see the Garden and the Brick walkway from the large window that is facing the Lake and overlooks the Osprey nest.

If you are interested in helping with this project contact:

Noreen Tripp at 208-249-8162 or (tonotripp@cableone.net)



The Hummingbird Butterfly Garden as it was in 2010.

Photo © Robert Allen

Bringing the Refuge to Refuge Visitors

The Refuge has an exciting new project planned for this summer to "bring the Refuge to Refuge visitors." Most Refuge visitors do not come to the Visitor Center, and many who come for water-based recreation may not realize that they are at a National Wildlife Refuge, or what that means. To increase visitors' understanding and appreciation for the Refuge, wildlife, and wildlife-dependent recreation, Refuge staff applied for a Connecting People with Nature grant from the National Conservation Training Center.

Fortunately, the grant was awarded and will be used to conduct on-site outreach this summer at high-use public access points at Lake Lowell. Carmen DeLeon, an environmental educator and AmeriCorps member from the McCall Outdoor Science School, will be leading the effort to provide educational and interpretive programs for kids and their families. She and a team of volunteers will be teaching elementary-aged kids about wildlife and habitat, as well as skills like fishing, nature photography, and birding. Grant funding will also support a Spanish-language interpreter at some of these programs.

Would you like to be on the volunteer team helping our project leaders conduct these programs? All training would be provided, and programs would be conducted on weekdays and weekends in June and July. If you are interested, contact Susan at susan_kain@fws.gov or 467-9278.



Photo © Robert Allen

The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

invite you to join us at the

July Ice Cream Social

Saturday, July 27, 2013
1:00-3:00 P.M. @ the Visitor Center

Gather with Friends and learn more about the important work they do to enhance the Refuge and to make it more accessible to the community and guests from near and far.



RSVP requested to either friendsofdf@yahoo.com or
Deer Flat NW Refuge @ 467-9278
by July 20th.

Deer Flat NWR - CCP Update

The Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS) was open for public comment from March 15-May 15. The draft is still available for review at www.fws.gov/deerflat. Refuge staff would like to thank everyone who submitted comments during the comment period. Staff will use ideas from these comments to develop the final CCP/EIS. Responses to comments received on the draft will be included in the final CCP/EIS, which is expected to be released in fall or winter of 2013.

Jennifer Brown-Scott
Refuge Manager

Spring Migration: The Mysteries Above



Prothonotary warbler | Atchafalaya National
Wildlife Refuge, LA | John Flores

May 11th was International Migratory Bird Day, a day when millions of people worldwide look to the skies above to marvel at the amazing treks of our feathered friends.

Twice a year, hundreds of millions of songbirds traverse planet earth in a well choreographed global migration from breeding to wintering grounds and back again. Flying along avian superhighways called 'flyways', migratory birds can make individual trips of up to 60-100 hours. Yet despite this mass movement, most people are not aware of the flight above because birds fly great distances at night generally taking off 30-45 minutes after sunset and landing just before dawn.

Tracking nocturnal migrations has proven difficult, but new technology is making such data available to the public. BirdCast is one such resource, which aggregates visual sightings, flight calls, and weather surveillance radar data. Each week, BirdCast releases a regional migration forecast for four areas in the United States that typically see the highest concentrations of migrations: West, Great Plains, Upper Midwest and Northeast, and Gulf Coast and South.

Article and photo from the NWRA *The Flyer E-Newsletter*: May 2013

Below is an accounting of The Friends budget for Fiscal Year 2012 (Oct. 2011-Sept. 2012). You will see that the greatest amount of our revenue comes from grants and donations, followed by sales and membership dues. SCRIP sales and purchases are a quick one time pass through of funds with about a 6% earnings. Our greatest costs have been those associated with Discover Wildlife Journeys (DWJ) and financing the temporary interns which are so valuable in helping to carry out the Friends' and the Refuge's missions. *Bob Christensen, Treasurer*

FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT WILDLIFE REFUGE - FY12 REVENUE & DISBURSEMENTS

REVENUE

DISBURSEMENTS

Sales

Bookstore	1201.89	
Garden Bricks	25.00	
BioBlitz Meals	223.50	
Pie & Honey	105.00	
Subtotal	1555.39	1555.39

Cash donations to Service

Day Camp Food	32.04
Bio Div Day Camp Food	25.45
BioBlitz Volunteer Food	264
Winter Day Camp Food	15.56
Subtotal	337.05

Donations

DWJ	50.00	
Fly Fishers	100.00	
CCMAD	100.00	
Rotary	61.50	
Bob Sobba's Book	715.00	
Donation Box	989.43	
Intern (Ed. Outreach)	2000.00	
Subtotal	4015.93	4015.93

Products Purchased for Service

BioBlitz Fishing Tackle	99.53	
Total to Service		436.58
GL SCRIP Purchases		5859.00

Friends Operations total costs 28823.27

Memberships 992.61 992.61

Total FY12 Disbursements = \$35,118.85

Grants

Caldwell Community Foundation (DWJ)	1500	
Whittenberger(DWJ)	2500	
FWS Costshare (DWJ & TEMPORARY INTERNS)	25006.77	
Subtotal	29006.77	29006.77

Other

GL SCRIP Sales	6742.12	6742.12
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Total FY 2012 Revenue = \$42,312.82

2013 Membership Application

* * * *



Please fill out this page and return with a check payable to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Telephone



Goose Eggs & Golf Ball

Email address
(please include email address if you have one – this is our primary means of communicating with Friends members)

Annual Membership Categories:

- Owl (Senior & Student) \$ 10
- Deer (Individual) \$ 15
- Fox (Family) \$ 25
- Osprey \$ 50
- Eagle \$100
- Goldeneye \$500

TOTAL

All contributions are tax deductible.

Friends Activities

Please Mark the Activities that Interest you:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Habitat enhancement | Public relations |
| Staffing the bookstore | Grant writing |
| Greeting Refuge visitors | Lobby on behalf of the Refuge |
| Helping organize an event | Be an officer in Friends group |
| Litter pickup | Other _____ |
| Weed eradication | |
| Education events | |
| Photography | |
| Publicity | |

Recent Snapshots from the Osprey Cam



Osprey Cam Update

The osprey pair is back at their nest near the refuge visitor center. Once again we will have the opportunity to view their nesting activities. The webcam has been a success the last three years. The female osprey laid her eggs about May 1st, and she and the male are taking turns incubating while the other hunts for fish. We expect the eggs to hatch about June 5th. Only when the young can stick their heads above the bowl of the nest will we know how many there are.

So, tune in to the new Fiberpipe link and watch the ospreys as they raise another family at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge: <http://webhost1.fiberpipe.tv/usfws/osprey.html> Donations are also solicited to help us maintain and keep the webcam and equipment updated. You can donate online from the website or send donations to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, ID 83686

Deer Flat Volunteer Happenings

Amazing things have been accomplished by Deer Flat volunteers this Spring! Volunteer field guides led 663 students through “Discover Wildlife Journeys” field trips that are correlated with 4-6th grade Idaho Standards of learning for science, math and language arts. We couldn't be more fortunate than to have had the dedicated volunteers who diligently led these field trips during the months of April and May. Nearly all of these field trips were made possible by bus scholarships provided by the Friends of Deer Flat.

Volunteers have also been hard at work in the Refuge Xeriscape located in front of the Visitor Center. Led by Master Gardener, Tricia M., a small group of volunteers have transformed this garden from its over-grown winter state into a lovely educational show piece for Refuge visitors. Through hard work and team efforts, big plans are underway to move the Friends' Pollinator Garden from its less visible location behind the building addition to a more visible location outside the Visitor Center viewing room windows. Noreen T., Tricia M., Eagle Scout Eric P., and Refuge staff have put in many hours making plans for the movement and revamping of this living educational tool.

The Friends of Deer Flat helped the Refuge celebrate its 104th Anniversary on March 2nd of this year and the volunteers involved with this project – thank you, Dixie, Noreen and Genevieve! – truly made it a delightful success. Photographer Terrell Moffett presented slides from his newly published book, “Silent Solitude” a picture book made up of gorgeous photos taken at Deer Flat, and the Friends procured delicious donations of coffee and pastries from Flying M Coffee Garage. The event was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by the public.

On April 20th we celebrated Earth Day Work Day with over 70 volunteers who collected 25 bags of litter to protect wildlife and to improve the cleanliness of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for visitors. They also removed over 1500 white bryony and 100 poison hemlock plants which often out-compete native plants that wildlife depend on for food and cover. The Friends of Deer Flat and Spot Pizza in Marsing graciously provided a delicious pizza luncheon at the end of our event.

We are currently gearing up for BioBlitz and Kids Fishing Day on June 7th and 8th. Thanks to the Friends for a record number of community donations and for their help making BioBlitz and Kids Fishing Day possible! We hope to see many of you at these fantastic educational events!

The Refuge is seeking volunteers to assist with outreach about wildlife, habitat, fishing, birding, and nature photography in June and July. See the article on page 7 for more information and how to volunteer. In July the Refuge will be holding two fabulous summer day camps for kids. If you like teaching children about nature and wildlife please contact Heidi Fencik, Deer Flat's Volunteer Coordinator, at heidi_fencik@fws.gov or 208-467-9278.



To preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

**FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT
WILDLIFE REFUGE**

13751 Upper Embankment
Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Executive Board:

*President - Genevieve
Johannsen*

Vice President - Noreen Tripp

Secretary - Dixie Blome

Treasurer - Bob Christensen

*Newsletter Editor - Robert
Allen*



All photos © Alexander Sapiens



**We are on the web at:
[www.fws.gov/deerflat/
friends.htm](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/friends.htm)**

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in Summer 2013