



the Grebe

Volume 5, Issue 3

Summer 2009

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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CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL

On Saturday, June 6th, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Lowell will celebrate 100 years of working together for wildlife at a grand Centennial Festival. This free, family-friendly event will include children's activities, informational booths, displays of art from local wildlife artists, guided tours and talks, a barbecue, live music, and the grand opening of a new historical interpretive trail.

The Centennial Festival will be held from 11 AM -3 PM. A local Boy Scout troop will kick off the festival at 11:00 with a flag raising ceremony. Throughout the day there will be informational booths from a variety of local wildlife-, history-, recreation-, and agriculture-related organizations as well as guided walks and talks about wildlife and history. Kids will particularly enjoy the craft activities, including fish printing, mask making, and face painting. They may also spot either the large blue goose, mascot of the National Wildlife Refuge System, or T.R. Bear, a mascot representing President Teddy Roosevelt, founder of the National Wildlife Refuge System and of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.



Noreen Tripp, Linda F. Smith, Dixie Blome display quilt for the raffle

The Centennial Festival will also mark the grand opening of the new Centennial Trail. This historical interpretive trail was funded by a grant to the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and supported by ten local partners. The 1.2-mile, disabled-accessible trail will go from the refuge visitor center to and across the Upper Dam. Along the trail there will be interpretive signs about the history of the refuge and reservoir, allowing visitors to discover the challenge of surviving in the dry, dusty desert of southwest Idaho, the difficulty of constructing Lake Lowell to bring irrigation water to the fertile lands nearby, the tremendous influence of the lake on people and wildlife, and how

(continued on page 5)

Elaine Says Goodbye!



Elaine holds a teal carved by Ted Smith

Deer Flat NWR has lost a good friend and ally. In April we said goodbye to Elaine Johnson; she has moved to southern Arizona where she is the new refuge manager of Imperial National Wildlife Refuge.

Elaine came to Idaho in 1999 as the refuge manager for Deer Flat. Under her guidance, the staff has improved habitat and implemented educational programs and encouraged volunteerism. Elaine was instrumental in the founding of the Friends of Deer Flat. She was involved in the development and design of the observation blind and with her support, the new bookstore is currently being built inside the refuge Visitor Center.

Elaine has been an intelligent and very thoughtful manager. She was always sensitive and open minded to suggestions by visitors, staff, and volunteers. She had a ready smile for everyone and

took time to make everyone feel welcome at the refuge.

Elaine will be returning to Idaho during the first week of June. She has spent many hours working on the refuge centennial and doesn't want to miss a minute of the fun. So stop by the Visitor Center for a goodbye chat with Elaine.

She will surely be missed!

P.S. Kayla's smile and enthusiasm for birds and other wildlife will be also be missed.



Mark your calendar...

Upcoming Events

Lecture Series

Thursday, May 28th, 7:00 p.m. - *The CCC at Deer Flat: A Legacy of Federal Labor in the Treasure Valley*

Refuge Centennial

Saturday, June 6th, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join us for a big birthday bash at this family friendly festival to include live animals, craft activities, guided walks, and more!

Kids Fishing Day

Saturday, June 13th (see refuge website for more information (<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/> or call 467-9278)

Weed Warriors

Saturday, June 20th, 9 a.m.

Bio Blitz

Friday & Saturday, July 17th & 18th

Weed Warriors

Saturday, July 18th, 9 a.m.

Weed Warriors

Saturday, August 15th, 9 a.m.

CORRECTION

The cover article In the Spring 2009 Grebe newsletter incorrectly stated the name of the person who made the quilt that will be raffled. The quilt donated by Dr. and Mrs. Atkins was made by *Linda F. Smith.*

The Grebe is published quarterly for the members of the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. If you have photos, stories, or other information for the Grebe, please email it to: idahobirder@hotmail.com or call 850-5885

Flying Blue Goose

The flying blue goose is the logo of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The logo was designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling when he was chief of the U.S. Biological Survey, the forerunner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Darling served as chief of the Survey in 1934 – 1935.

“Whenever you meet this sign, respect it,” said *Silent Spring* author and former USFWS employee Rachel Carson. “It means that the land behind the sign has been dedicated by the American people to preserving, for themselves and their children, as much of our native wildlife as can be retained along with modern civilization.”



Wild creatures, like people, must have a place to live. As civilization creates cities and builds highways and dams, little by little it takes away the land that is suitable for wildlife. And as wildlife’s spaces for living dwindle, the wildlife population itself declines. Refuges help to arrest this trend by saving land from encroachment; by preserving or restoring lands that contain suitable habitats that wild things need to order to survive.

Our Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge became a part of this system on Feb 25 1909 and is the 22nd Refuge set aside by than Pres. Theodore Roosevelt. In 1908,

the practice of creating wildlife refuges on Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs began. Seventeen such western “overlay” refuges were established on one day alone in 1909 by Executive Order 1032, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge being one of the 17. For additional information about the history of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, go to <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/history.htm>. For information about the history of the National Wildlife Refuge System, go to <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/history/>

by Noreen Tripp

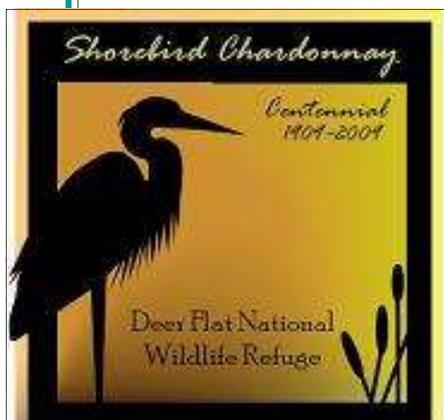
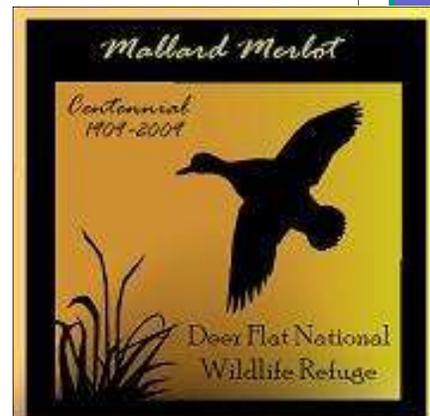
References: USFWS Refuge Update, 2004
USFWS website

citizens and partners have worked together to make sure Lake Lowell continues as an oasis for people and wildlife in its second century.

The festival will also showcase the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge's work to insure that this wildlife treasure will exist for at least the next 100 years! Attendees will be able to participate in four ongoing Friends' fund raisers.

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of Deer Flat have arranged with Bitner Vineyards to create limited edition special-label bottles of "Mallard Merlot" and "Shorebird Chardonnay" to commemorate the Centennial. The labels were designed by Anica Hopkins, a student at the College of Idaho. Profits from the sale of this limited-edition wine will be used to fund ongoing and new

conservation and education programs at the refuge. Centennial Festival visitors will be able to place wine orders. If you would like to order one or both wines, please see the order form on page 9.



Visitors will also be able to see a model commemorative bench for the new Centennial Trail and donate money towards an Eagle Scout project to build additional trail benches. A plaque will be attached to each bench acknowledging the donor.

Orders will be taken for engraved bricks to be placed in the hummingbird and butterfly garden at the refuge Visitor Center. The garden is currently being refurbished as an Eagle Scout project. The bricks cost \$25.00 and can be engraved with up to three lines. Proceeds from sale of the bricks will go to the Friends Educational Outreach Program to help fund the refuge's on- and off-site environmental education programs that reach thousands of local kids each year.

Finally, a beautiful quilt, hand made by Linda F. Smith and donated by Dr. and Mrs. Watkins, will be on display. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the Centennial Festival for \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. The quilt will be awarded to the lucky raffle winner at the annual refuge BioBlitz Festival on July 18, 2009.

A no-host barbecue will start at noon and there will be music starting at 12:30. Call (208) 467-9278 for more information.

By Noreen Tripp and Dixie Bloome

References: Deer Flat Press Release 2009

SOMETHING TO HOWL ABOUT

By Bob Christensen

The other morning as I was traveling down Orchard Avenue near Lake Lowell, I saw a large coyote on the lake side of the road with his nose stuck into a bush, sniffing out potential prey. His fur was beautifully colored with shades of brown, black, gray, and yellow. I wondered if he was the father of the den of coyote pups that had recently been sighted about a mile west of the refuge visitor center.

I first became aware of the new additions to the refuge on a morning in late April while I was watching the bald eagle nest in the same general location. I had my spotting scope zeroed in on the eagle nest, where I could see the mother eagle patiently tending her downy gray chick as it moved back and forth in front of her. Occasionally, I could see its small head and neck poking up above the rim of the nest.

While I was engaged in watching the pair of birds on the nest in the cottonwoods, a couple of hikers stopped by and asked me if I was watching the coyote. I responded that I was concentrating on the eagle nest in the trees. They pointed out to me that there was a coyote about 200 yards away in the same general direction that I was scoping. And sure enough, as I adjusted the spotting scope to look along the base of the trees, I spotted a coyote lying in the grass watching us. Her hide was a dirty blonde. We could see it more plainly when she stood up and looked intently at us. Then she would lie down again as if trying to hide her presence.

The hikers explained that they had been watching some coyote pups just up the hill and had spotted the adult coyote studying them. They speculated that it was probably the mother. They suggested I look over the top of a large sagebrush in front of my vehicle, where I could see a mound of dirt—that was the site of the den where the pups were. On the morning breeze we heard the shrill yap, yap, yap and long waning howl of one of the pups—probably calling for his mama.



©Bob Christensen

I moved up the road closer to the den and watched the four young pups playing. They were running and cavorting along little trails that they made in and out through the grass, and under the sagebrush--all within a safe escape distance from the mouth of their protective den. After a brief period of activity, they would lie quietly in a tight little group under the shade of the sagebrush. Then off they would go again-- running, wandering, and exploring the world around the mound of the den.

All the time I was observing the pups, the mother coyote kept her watchful eye on them and me from her safe distance.



©Mike Shipman

Deer Flat NWR...a Young Person's Perspective

Josslyn Carson would tell you there are many things to do and see at Deer Flat. She is the one of the youngest members of the Deer Flat Friends group. She enjoys working with other young people during the annual BioBlitz and she has spent many hours showing her young sister around the visitor's center and the hummingbirds that feed on the plants in the hummingbird garden..

Matthew Carson and his cousins, Robert and Anthony Carson love spending time together at the refuge. Visiting the photo blind and watching the birds is a favorite pastime for the boys. It is impossible not to watch wildlife when visiting the refuge. Deer, coyotes, and other mammals can be found throughout the refuge. The boys have a wonderful time attending some of the many

programs for kids offered at the refuge. The day camps are great fun and educational. The special events such as the BioBlitz festival are one of their favorite times at the refuge. The BioBlitz will be held on July 18th and Matthew is looking forward to getting some great pictures.

This year Robert and Anthony are looking forward to Kids' fishing day, so they can try out the new fishing poles they got for Christmas. Kids' fishing day is on June 13th and will be a time to learn how to and practice fishing.



Matthew, Isabella, and Josslyn Carson at the Visitors Center



Anthony Carson with a snake at BioBlitz 2008

Isabella Carson loves being with her older brother and sister at the refuge. The youngest visitors can find many things to do; exploring in and around the visitors' center, coloring, playing with the Audubon birds and learning about real birds and watching the nesting Osprey. Isabella enjoys listening to wildlife related stories and doing the craft during the 'reading at the refuge program'.



Isabella tells a story about local wildlife

By Noreen Tripp

FAMILIES GONE WILD!

Sweepstakes



Once you go to Alaska, you'll never come all the way back. From the majestic mountains to the pristine lakes, there are so many places to lose your cares and find yourself. Barbara's Bakery wants you to experience the wonders of the National Wildlife Refuge at Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. You could win an unforgettable trip for 4!

If you have been to any national wildlife refuge, you know how special they are. Send in a photo with 50 words or less and tell us about your refuge visit. Or send in a 30-second video talking about your refuge experience.

Your photo or video must be taken at a national wildlife refuge.

The sweepstakes period runs from March 2, 2009 through August 24, 2009. Go to www.barbarasbakery.us/alaska/index.html for more information including rules and entry form.

Snap a Memory on a Wildlife Refuge



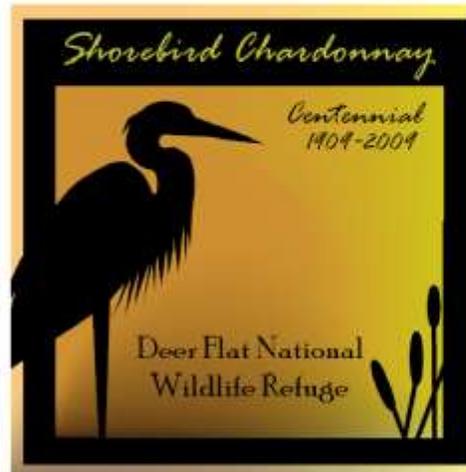
This summer, create memories by taking your camera to a national wildlife refuge and then share them on an online Photomosaic, **created by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Let's Go Outside"** initiative. After compiling nearly 10,000 photographs sent by the public, the Photomosaic of an outdoor image to be revealed at **summer's end and then made into a commemorative poster.**

All digital photos submitted will be included in the Photomosaic – a picture that has been divided into equally sized sections, each of which is replaced with a photograph. When viewed at a distance, the Photomosaic appears as one complete image, while close examination reveals it as a composition of thousands of smaller images. **Visitors to the "Let's Go Outside" Web site will be able to watch the Photomosaic being built and locate their own images by using a unique code number.**

Submissions for the Photomosaic will be accepted from Memorial Day through Labor Day. To submit digital photos and learn about other activities in nature, visit <http://www.fws.gov/letsqooutside/>. **"Let's Go Outside" strives to promote environmental awareness while reconnecting Americans with nature.**

Photo by Matt Poole, USFWS

Commemorative Centennial Wine



Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge have partnered with Bitner Vineyards to create a special edition bottling of their Merlot and Chardonnay with labels commemorating the 100th anniversary of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Profits from the sale of this special edition wine will be used to help fund ongoing and new conservation and education programs at the refuge, continuing the legacy of the refuge system. These wines are a collector's item to mark this special occasion.

For More Information Contact: Lyndell Jackson at (208)459-4740

Wines will be available for pickup at Bitner Vineyards, Caldwell, ID.

Weekends-Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12-5pm

Directions:

- **From Boise**
- Take I-84 Exit 33 A to Highway 55 (Karcher Rd)
- **From Caldwell**
- Take I-84 Exit #28 and go South on 10th Ave to Highway 55 (Karcher Rd) and Turn Right

Once on Highway 55, go West and turn Right on Hoskins Rd and Right on Plum Rd. Go up and over the hill and you'll see the "Bitner Vineyards" sign. The address is 16645 Plum Road, Caldwell, ID 83607.

Please send orders and payment to the address on the back of this form.



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

Now Available

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Limited Edition Centennial Wines

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Type	Price	Qty
<i>Shorebird Chardonnay</i>	\$16	
<i>Mallard Merlot</i>	\$20	
Subtotal		
Case Discount (12 bottles +)	-10%	
Tax	+6%	
Total		

Payment Method:

- Cash
- Check
- Credit Card
 - Visa
 - Mastercard
 - American Express
 - Discover

Please Return this form, along with payment and/or payment information, to:

Bitner Vineyards
c/o Deer Flat Wines
16645 Plum Road
Caldwell, ID 83607
208-899-7648

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

CCV#: _____

Be a Friend! Join Today!

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Telephone

Email

Annual Membership Categories

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

All contributions are tax deductible

Please print this page and return with a check payable to:

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



BUY A BRICK----EDUCATE A CHILD

Have you had the opportunity to visit the hummingbird/butterfly garden that is located on the southeastern corner of the Visitor Center? In the upcoming months, the garden will be undergoing a facelift.

The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge are now selling engraved bricks that will be used in the garden as a fund raiser for the Educational Outreach Program at the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.

Here is your opportunity to leave your mark at the Deer Flat Refuge while contributing to the important educational programs offered at the Refuge. When you buy a personalized brick, your name or the name of a loved one will be make a permanent part of the Hummingbird/Butterfly garden located just outside the Refuge Visitor's Center. Whether you are honoring a friend, client, family member or celebrating a special occasion, our engraved bricks make a wonderful and lasting gift.

Each brick is 4"X 8" with up to three engraved lines.
There is a maximum of 15 characters and/or spaces per line.

Note: Although bricks will be engraved and installed in a timely manner, the date of placement cannot be guaranteed due to requirements of the engraver and the necessity of installing the bricks. Donors will be notified when their brick has been installed.

Minimum donation per brick is \$25.00

Please indicate:

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____
maximum of 15 characters/spaces per line

You may order as many bricks as you want.

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

e-mail address _____



Send check or money order to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
c/o:bricks/nt
13751 Upper Embankment Rd.
Nampa, Idaho 83686

If you have any questions you may call:
Noreen Tripp
208-936-3130



FRIENDS OF DEER
FLAT WILDLIFE
REFUGE

13751 Upper Embankment
Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Executive Board:
*President - Lyndell
Jackson (459-4740)*
*Vice President - Noreen
Tripp (468-0402)*
*Secretary/Treasurer - Bob
Christensen (454-2518)*

*Newsletter - Denise Hughes
(850-5885)*

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

To preserves and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in September 2009

Lecture Series Programs

Thursday, May 28th

The CCC at Deer Flat: A Legacy of Federal Labor in the Treasure Valley

Learn about what the CCC; what it did and how its work continues to shape the refuge and the lake today.

Marc Frisk, BSU, Department of History

