

# Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • April 2011

## What's new?

It is officially spring! If you've got spring fever, and are itching to get out of the house, come volunteer at Deer Flat. We will be celebrating the arrival of the new season with many volunteer events this spring, and as always you are invited and encouraged to lend a hand. Please tell your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about your Deer Flat volunteer experiences and help us spread the word to anyone who might be interested!

In wildlife news, the pair of bald eagles near the north shore of the Visitor Center has begun nesting. The Refuge has therefore closed the fork of the trail along the shore to all use to protect the eagles until the chicks leave the nest. You can still spot these majestic birds with a pair of binoculars from our observation deck along the main trail, which remains open. Also, osprey have been spotted on the osprey nesting pole. Work is currently being done to fix and update the osprey webcam for your viewing pleasure. Check <http://www2.fiberpipe.net/deerflat/ospreycam.asp> soon!



Photo Courtesy of USFWS

## Cheers!

Thank you to all who helped process and judge our Junior Duck Stamp entries! We had hundreds of submissions from young artists all across Idaho, and we were very impressed with the creativity and colors in many of the entries. And, as always, thank you to our Visitor Center hosts this past month.

## Around the water cooler...

Addison, our Refuge biologist, has been busy counting wildlife recently. During his waterfowl survey, over 3800 ducks, 3500 white-fronted geese, and 100 snow geese were counted. And a few nights ago, over 140 deer were counted around the Refuge. Goes to show how great a place Deer Flat is for wildlife!

## Did you know...

The Friends of Deer Flat are helping with our new Discover Wildlife Journey field trip program. The Friends have received several grants so they can offer bus scholarships to schools to transport their classes to the Refuge! It's just one of the many ways our Friends group benefits the Refuge. If you enjoy volunteering, appreciate the Refuge, and want to help even more, think about becoming a Friends member! For more information, contact Genevieve Johannsen at [gcj\\_83651@yahoo.com](mailto:gcj_83651@yahoo.com) or 467-7515

## Upcoming Events:

**Wild About Life Lecture Series:** Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM

*The Story of Rocks:* Come explore the story of rocks through time. This lecture will cover current paleoresearch, volcanic activity in Idaho, as well as information on Idaho's past and present geologic resources. Margret Stallknecht, Education Chair of the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology will be presenting at the Visitor Center.

**Activities are free. To find out more, contact [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) or (208)-467-9278.**



## **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**

### **Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders**

**Dates and Times: Tuesdays-Thursdays in April & May, 9:30am-2:30pm**

This spring marks the kickoff of our Discover Wildlife Journeys field trips. Volunteers are still needed to help guide 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders through educational stations near the Visitor Center and connect students with nature. No experience necessary – just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. **Deadline to register: Contact Cody ASAP**

### **Earth Day Work Day Workers (as many volunteers as possible!)**

**Date and Time: April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00am-12:00pm**

As part of the Lets G.O.! (Get Outside) campaign, celebrate Earth Day by being outdoors and being stewards of the land. We'll improve habitat for wildlife by removing noxious weeds and litter at Lake Lowell. **Deadline to register: April 18<sup>th</sup>**

### **Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Helpers (2-4 volunteers)**

**Dates and Times: First two weeks of April**

Help to sort judged artwork and return artwork and certificates/prizes/ribbons to all participants. Help needed during the week of 4/4, so please register ASAP and let us know when you can help. **Deadline to register: ASAP**

### **Comprehensive Conservation Plan Mailing List Helpers (2-3 volunteers)**

**Dates and Times: First two weeks of April**

Things are moving along with the CCP, and we are preparing to update people on what's going on! We need some help updating our mailing list between 4/4 and 4/15 by calling people whose information has changed and by using an online database to update our Payette County Islands Unit neighbor ownership information. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

### **Lake Use Survey Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)**

**Date and Time: April 15th-September 30th**

Help the Refuge characterize recreational use of Lake Lowell by observing and surveying boating activity. If you like watching people and enjoying a view, think about signing up! No prior experience necessary, training will be provided. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

### **Scout Day Leaders (3-4 volunteers per month)**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. **Upcoming date: May 7<sup>th</sup>**. 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: Ongoing**

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

**Dates and Time: May 3 & May 17, 10:00-11:00am**

A free wildlife focused story telling 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.**

### **Festival Outreach Helpers (3-4 volunteers)**

**Snake River Birds of Prey Festival: May 14-15 in Kuna, Nampa KID Festival: May 21, and Nampa Public Library: June 4**

Represent Deer Flat at various festivals this spring. Help staff a booth, meet and talk to folks interested about the Refuge, and help kids learn about wildlife through fun activities. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

**BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day (12-15 volunteers): Mark your calendars for 6/11. More information to come.**

**Thanks again, and see you at the Refuge!**

*Cody Dix, Volunteer Coordinator*