

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • August 2012

What's new?

It has definitely been a warm summer and we have seen a lot of activity here at the lake ranging from boating to swimming.

In wildlife news, the osprey chick near the visitor center is almost all grown up and should be flying and fishing for itself soon! They are still hanging out by the nest, so watch them from anywhere by clicking <http://www2.fiberpipe.net/deerflat/ospreycam.asp>.



Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Cheers!

Thanks Steve Kehoe, Sabrina, Milo Shaw, and Addison for going out every week to try to keep control of invasive plant species. Their main focus has been removing salt cedar. If you are interested in helping them to try to remove invasive species from the refuge please call Kash at 467-9278 or email Kash_anderson@fws.gov.

Also, cheers to our Environmental Education Specialist Kyle Luthman, who has completed his Friends internship. During his 11-month internship, he has taught over 5,000 kids and adults about the environment around us. We appreciate everything Kyle has done for us and we wish him the best in the future.

Around the water cooler...

Addison and Sabrina did a Grebe Survey this week and they counted just over 1,500 Grebes, including 459 chicks. Last year around this time we were seeing about 700 Grebes total and just above 100 chicks. We are not sure yet but there may be a second brood on the way as well.



Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Did you know...

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge has a non-profit Friends group, Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge! This all-volunteer group helps the Refuge by coordinating volunteer projects, hosting events, and raising funds and writing grants for Refuge projects. If you enjoy volunteering, appreciate the Refuge, and want to help even more, think about becoming a Friends member! Membership starts at \$10, and all contributions are tax deductible. If you really want to get involved, consider joining a committee or even the Friends' board. For more information about the Friends, email friendsofdf@yahoo.com.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Weed Warrior Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Time: Weekdays throughout August, 8:00am-12:00pm

Join Steve, the Refuge Biologist, and many others to remove Invasive plants from the refuge. A team has been working hard all summer, but they still need some help. If you want to get outside and are free for a morning in August, we would love to have you. Call Kash at 467-9278 or email Kash_anderson@fws.gov. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders (3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Times: mid-September through October, Tues-Thurs from 9am-3pm

Volunteers are needed to help guide 4th-6th graders through educational stations near the Visitor Center and connect students with nature. No experience is necessary – just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. **Training will be held in early-mid September.**

Duck Banding Volunteers (10-14 volunteers)

TENTATIVE Date and Time: September 11

Help the Refuge staff band and count ducks! Volunteers will help secure nets and will gather ducks from the nets to place in the holding boxes or pass to staff to band. Basic duck species identification skills are recommended. **Deadline to Register: September 1st**

National Public Lands Day (As many as possible!!)

Dates and Time: September 29th, 9:00am-12pm

On Saturday September 29th we are celebrating National Public Lands Day by doing volunteer projects from picking up litter to removing invasive plants around the refuge. If you would like to help us in these projects, call Kash at 467-9278 or email Kash_anderson@fws.gov.

Deadline: September 24th

Bird Feeding (3-5 Volunteers)

Dates and Times September 29th, 1:00pm

Deer Flats Friends group has been feeding our local birds in the winter time for a couple years now and they would like some help. September 29th they are holding a training and orientation for filling and proper cleaning of the bird feeders. From November through March they will be filling and cleaning the bird feeders 3 times a week. If you are interested you can contact Noreen Tripp at tonotripp@cablone.net

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

Dates and Time: 1st & 3rd Monday at (10:00am) and (2:00)

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.**



To find out more about or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities,
Contact kash_anderson@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Kash Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator