

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter December 2010

What's new?

Sadly this is my last month as the Volunteer Coordinator at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. It has been a pleasure working with all of the dedicated, passionate volunteers of the Refuge and I will miss it greatly. Please provide a warm welcome to the new Volunteer Coordinator, Cody Dix, who will be starting on January 18th, 2011. With this transition it is more important than ever for you to let us know how you would like to be involved at the Refuge so we don't lose anyone in the shuffle! Please let us know if there is a volunteer activity you want to help with or you have thought of one you think would be great to add. Between December 17th and January 18th direct your questions and comments to Susan Kain at 467-9278 or susan_kain@fws.gov and she will do her best to help you.

Cheers!

Many thanks to all of the volunteers that attended the Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony. Although the acoustics were rotten, the food was good, the company was great and the chance for me to thank all of the 2010 volunteers in person was priceless. Steve Kehoe was awarded the first Annual Outstanding Volunteer Award – thank you for everything that you do! Many thanks to Jim Holcomb for pulling double duty by leading the wolves and brownies for Scout Day and staffing the visitor center every first Saturday. Thank you also to Jim and Mary Ann Williams for staffing the visitor center the Friday after Thanksgiving so that all the visitors enjoying their long weekend could come out and experience Refuge wildlife!

Around the water cooler...

Not to sound like a broken record but the Refuge staff is busy working on the CCP! They are rarely to be seen out of meetings in which they are discussing draft alternatives, starting to write the scoping report and getting ready to send the second planning update out to Refuge Friends, neighbors and interested community members. If you are interested in being on the mailing list, please contact the refuge at 467-9278 or email deerflat@fws.gov to get signed up.



Outstanding Volunteer Award winner Steve Kehoe ready to work at Earth Day Work Day this April
Photo USFWS



December 2010 Upcoming Events:

Wild About Life Lecture Series: Tuesday, December 14th starting at 7:00pm

Rodents of Idaho: Vital Vermin, Ray Vizgirdas, Adjunct Biology Professor, Northwest Nazarene University
Idaho has nearly 100 mammal species, but we mostly hear about the larger, more charismatic species such as moose, elk, deer, and wolves. This lecture will highlight some of the other, perhaps less appealing, species, the rodents. We will explore who they are and what they do and discussing some of the vital ecological services they provide that the larger species do not.

Winter Day Camp: Tuesday and Wednesday, December 28th and 29th from 1-4pm.

Do you have kids or grandkids in 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade with nothing to do over winter break? Sign them up to learn about wildlife winter survival skills! **Deadline to register: First come first serve**

December 2010 Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Scout Day (3-4 volunteers per month)

1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. **Upcoming dates: January 8th and February 5th.** A free environmental education opportunity for Scouts to earn various wildlife-related badges. Volunteers lead programs that include nature crafts and a short hike. No experience necessary—only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn! **Deadline to express interest: Ongoing**



Dedicated volunteer Micki Kawakami helping Claire at the Caldwell Literacy Fair
Photo USFWS

Planning Update Labeling (5-10 volunteers)

Date in mid-December TBA. Help place address labels on more than 500 planning updates for the CCP. These updates will go out to Refuge neighbors, community members and interested individuals. **Snacks and drinks provided!** **Deadline to register: Let us know of your interest ASAP before Friday, December 10th**

Unless otherwise stated, all activities take place at the Visitor Center of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. If you are interested in finding out more information or participating in any of the above programs, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at deerflat@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.

Thanks again and see you at the refuge!

Lauren Roden, Volunteer Coordinator

