

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • July 2012

What's new?

The year is half over and we have done so much. We just held BioBlitz, finished Discover Wildlife Journeys field trips, and completed many wildlife surveys. We hope you have enjoyed the first half of the year, but we will be just as busy with events and opportunities in the second half, so stick around!

There is one osprey chick in the nest, so the next time you are around the refuge come check out the nest at the Visitor Center. Or the next time you are online check out the web cam.

<http://www2.fiberpipe.net/deerflat/ospreycam.asp>.



Photo Courtesy of Aubrey Brower

Cheers!

Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped out in the first part of the year—you guys make the difference at the refuge. A special thanks to the BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day volunteers. Without them, the event would not have run so well. Also thanks to all the Visitor Center volunteers for answering all the visitors' questions and providing the opportunity for people to see the Visitor Center on Saturday. There are so many opportunities at Deer Flat inside and out. We appreciate all the hard work our volunteers do and we love to work with you. Thanks all!



Photo Courtesy of Aubrey Brower

Around the water cooler...

Addison and his intern Sabrina Seidel have been doing several grebe surveys lately and they have stumbled upon a large colony of nests; they have located 75 nests so far. There are also chicks riding on their parents backs. If you would like to volunteer to do grebe surveys, contact either Addison or Kash @ 208/467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov.

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

Thanks to the Friends for providing food at BioBlitz and snacks for our summer day camps! If you want to support the Refuge beyond volunteering, please consider joining the Friends of Deer Flat. Your small membership fee is tax deductible and helps fund various Friends projects throughout the year. The Friends are also looking for more active members (and even board members). If you have a grand idea for the Refuge or want to share your enthusiasm about the Refuge with like-minded people, think about joining! For more information about membership or Friends volunteering, contact friendsofdf@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events:

Reading at the Refuge: Monday, July 2nd and 16th, 10 10 AM & 2 PM

Preschoolers (and their parents!) are invited to Reading at the Refuge. Children listen to a wildlife-related story and participate in related activities that will help them learn about the environment. Free!



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Visitor Center Host (8-10 volunteers per month)

On Saturdays, the Visitor Center is open thanks to visitor center host volunteers. If you enjoy interacting with people and sharing wildlife stories with visitors, then this might be the opportunity for you! Training is provided. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

Weed Warriors Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Time: Wednesday, 8:00am-4:00pm

If you have an open Wednesday or two within the next few weeks, and are itching to get outside, ultimate weed warrior and volunteer Steve Kehoe is looking for a few people to help him remove noxious shrub and weed hotspots around the Refuge. Help improve the wildlife habitat at the Refuge by removing noxious—and obnoxious—plants. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**



Photo Courtesy Deer Flat Refuge

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

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

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.**

Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders

Dates and Times: Tues-Thurs in September and October

Volunteers will be needed to help connect students with nature while guiding 4th-6th graders through Discover Wildlife Journeys field trips near the Visitor Center. No experience necessary—just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. **Deadline to register: August 31, but please sign up soon! Training will be held early September.**

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