

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • June 2011

What's new?

June is here! While it may not feel quite like the sunny start of summer outside yet, Deer Flat is preparing for another warm season. There are quite a few opportunities to get involved at Deer Flat, both indoors and outdoors, and we always appreciate and enjoy working with you.

We also have new faces around the Refuge for the summer! Paul Backus is a new biological intern and will be helping with various field projects. Also, Amber Murrey is our summer Youth Conservation Corp leader, and will be working alongside our YCC crew this summer. You just might see them out and about studying and improving the Refuge!

In wildlife news, the osprey near the visitor center now have chicks! You can watch them feed and take care of their young from anywhere by clicking <http://www2.fiberpipe.net/deerflat/ospreycam.asp>

Cheers!

A big thank you goes out to the hard working crew of volunteers who help put on our Discover Wildlife Journey field trips in May: Martha McClay, Bob Ruesink, Jake Niemec, Lindsey Hamilton, Hannah Reed, and Steve Kehoe. Thank you for connecting kids with nature.

Additionally, thank you to the over many volunteers who helped run BioBlitz/Kids Fishing Day this past Friday and Saturday! You all made it a very special event for the Refuge to inventory species and for families to learn about the cool animals and plants that live nearby. Bravo! The Idaho Press-Tribune has a nice article about the Saturday Festival here:

http://www.idahopress.com/news/local/bioblitz-festival-draws-families-to-local-refuge/article_13d0ab10-94bc-11e0-98e4-001cc4c03286.html



Photo courtesy of Addison Mohler, USFWS

Around the water cooler...

Planning Update Three and Preliminary Draft Alternatives of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan were released Memorial Day Weekend. Please take a look at them at <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/refugeplanning.html> and take advantage of the 60-day comment period (comments accepted through July 29) to provide your input and suggestions. Open houses at the Visitor Center will be held Friday, July 8 from Noon-3pm and 6pm-9pm and Saturday, July 9 from 10am-3pm for you to learn more about the plans, ask questions, and share your thoughts. If you are interested in being on the CCP mailing list, please contact the Refuge at 467-9278 or email deerflat@fws.gov.

Additionally, Deputy Manager Kendra Niemec will be leaving Deer Flat on June 17 and will be headed to the Upper Mississippi River Refuge. We wish her and her family the best as they head for new adventures in Wisconsin!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Snake River Island Noxious Weeds Removal (3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Time: Saturday, June 25, 7:30am-4:00pm

This is a unique opportunity to spend time out on Snake River Islands unit of the Refuge digging up weeds and exploring a biologically and culturally important part of the Refuge. If you enjoy fresh air, moderate exercise, and river trips then think about signing up! **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**



Post-BioBlitz Help (1-2 volunteers)**Dates and Time: Week of June 13**

A helper is needed to cover the Friends of Deer Flat animal cutouts with polyurethane paint to preserve and protect their newly painted colors.

Weed Warrior Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)**Dates and Time: Weekdays throughout June, 8:00am-4:00pm**

If you have an open weekday 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 Russian olive hotspots around the Refuge. Help improve the wildlife habitat at the Refuge by removing these obnoxious trees. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

Festival Outreach Helpers (3-4 volunteers)**Boise Rec Fest: June 25-26, 10am-8pm and Lakeside Lavender Festival: July 9-10, 9am-4pm (Nampa)**

Represent Deer Flat at various festivals this summer. 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**

Reading at the Refuge (1-2 volunteers per month)**Dates and Time: June 22, 2:00-3:00pm**

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.**

Visitor Center Host (8-10 volunteers per month)**Dates and Times: Saturdays in July-September, 10:00am-4:00pm**

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**

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

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Cody Dix, Volunteer Coordinator