

# Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

## Volunteer Newsletter • March 2012

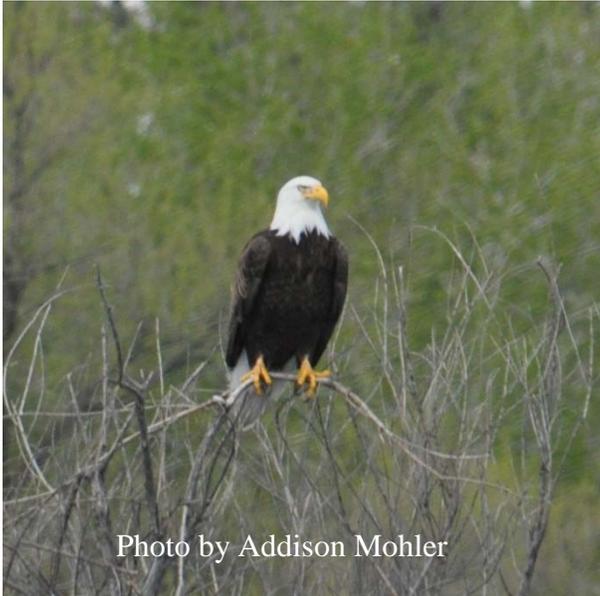


Photo by Addison Mohler

### What's new?

The month of February has been an odd one, hasn't it? But despite the odd year, things are still happening at the Refuge! Two pairs of bald eagles have started setting up nesting territories, and they should be nesting and laying their eggs soon! The lower road west of the Visitor Center is therefore closed to minimize disturbance until the eaglets fledge in mid-July.

### Cheers!

Thanks to the volunteers that helped with the wood duck box cleaning. We got a lot done. and thanks to Jim Holcomb for letting us come out to help him. Thanks to all who celebrated the 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday of conservation at Deer Flat with the Friends group. We had a great turnout and much enjoyment by all.

### Around the water cooler...

Things have been relatively quiet at the Refuge offices, with staff working really hard on the CCP. A few of us are starting to plan for BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kash Anderson. If you wish to be an exhibitor, please contact Kyle Luthman at 208-467-9278.

### Did you know...

The Friends of Deer Flat recently held the 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Refuge conservation and recreation at the Visitor Center. Dave Cannamela from Idaho Fish and Game spoke about fish and fishing, and there were information tables about Friends' activities. If you enjoy volunteering, appreciate the Refuge, and want to help even more, think about becoming a Friends member! Memberships start at just \$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, contact Genevieve Johannsen at [friendsofdf@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofdf@yahoo.com) or 467-7515

### Upcoming Events:

**Wild About Life Lecture Series: Tuesday, March 13, 7 PM.** The topic of the night will be the conservation of sage grouse. Jason Pyron from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will talk about the conservation and unique ecology of Idaho's Sage Grouse.

**Junior Duck Stamp Art Days: 10 AM-4 PM on March 10.** K-12 students are invited to drop in to have fun, draw, and learn about Idaho waterfowl. All art supplies are provided to create your own Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest entry. Entries for the **2012 contest are due by March 15, 2012. Activities are free.**

**Deer Flat Volunteer Orientation: 7-8 PM on March 27.** Are you interested in volunteering for the Refuge, but you're not entirely sure what it entails? Or are you interested in volunteering to do something different and new? Come to this volunteer orientation session where I will preview Refuge volunteer opportunities for the spring, summer, and fall.



## **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**

### **Sagebrush planting (many volunteers)**

Join Refuge and Boise FWS staff all day on March 13 to restore native plants by planting sagebrush, removing the noxious vine white bryony, and picking up litter near Gotts Point. **Deadline to register: March 9 (to be included in pizza lunch order!)**

### **Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Helpers (3-5 volunteers)**

**Dates and Times: At your convenience or as noted.**

**Data entry:** Help enter information about contest participants into a database. **Help needed through March 23.**

**Judging help:** Help organize artwork entries during judging. **1-3 PM, March 19. Deadline to register: March 14**

**Returning artwork:** Sort judged artwork and return artwork and certificates/prizes/ribbons to all participants. Help needed from **March 26-April 13**. Specific times will be set up for teams to work together.



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

**Dates and Times: Tues-Thurs from April 10-June 7, 9am-3pm**

Volunteers needed to help guide 4th-6th graders through Discover Wildlife Journeys field trips near the Visitor Center and help connect students with nature. No experience necessary—just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. **Deadline to register: April 2. Training will be held April 4, 5 or 6 at the Visitor Center.**

### **Goose Nest Survey (many volunteers)**

Participate in goose nesting surveys on all the islands in the Snake River Islands Unit of the Refuge. Surveys will be on April 7-10, pending weather. These will be full days—probably from 7:30 AM until about 4. The surveys will repeat in May—dates to be announced. **Deadline to register: March 28.**

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

Usually the first Saturday of the month from 1-3pm. **Upcoming dates: March 17, April 7, and May 5.** A free environmental education opportunity for cub scouts and girl 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**

### **Earth Day Work Day (many volunteers)**

Celebrate Earth Day at Deer Flat by participating in Earth Day Work Day! Celebrate being outdoors and being stewards of the land by improving habitat for wildlife by removing noxious weeds and litter at Lake Lowell. **9 am-noon on April 21. Deadline to register: April 16.**

### **Earth Day Booth College of Idaho (2-3 volunteers)**

Come help run an educational booth to teach students, faculty, and staff of the College of Idaho about the Refuge. **10 to 2 on May 1. Deadline to register: April 15**

**To find out more or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, contact [Kash\\_Anderson@fws.gov](mailto:Kash_Anderson@fws.gov) or (208) 467-9278. Thanks again, and see you at the Refuge!**

*Kash Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator*