

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • November 2012

What's new?

Did you know that the Refuge is now on [Facebook](#)? "Like" us to stay up to date on Refuge news and events!

As the temperature drops and migrating birds arrive here at Deer Flat, we've grown nostalgic as we reflect on the tremendous accomplishments of our wonderful volunteers this past year. Thank you, thank you to each and every one of you. You helped us complete so many mission-critical tasks. **We could never do it all without you!**

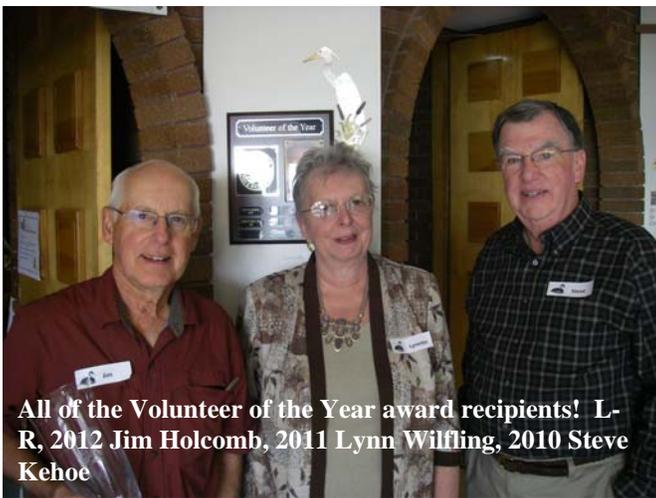


Volunteer and attendees at Creepy Critters (© Robert Allen)

Cheers!

Many volunteers received special awards last month at our annual volunteer recognition luncheon, including Jim Holcomb, who earned the 3rd Annual Volunteer of the Year Award. Thanks, Jim!

Many thanks to all of our wonderful Creepy Critter Encounters volunteers and our sponsors, Wissel Farms, Dominos Pizza and the Friends of Deer Flat. The event was a terrific success and we could not have done it without you. Thank you so much for helping run wildlife stations, telling stories, greeting visitors, creating crafts, and managing the parking lot. Despite the cold drizzly weather, over 627 visitors "encountered" nature in an up close and personal way. They left with smiles on their faces



All of the Volunteer of the Year award recipients! L-R, 2012 Jim Holcomb, 2011 Lynn Wilfling, 2010 Steve Kehoe

(and candy in their bellies). Bravo!

Cheers to **Friends of Deer Flat** for celebrating **National Refuge Week** in a thoughtful and engaging way from October 14th -20th. The week was kicked off with Cheryl Huizinga and Genevieve Johannsen running the second annual Big Sit bird survey at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. They identified 44 different kinds of birds! The week ended with a special day of celebration events at the Visitor Center, including intriguing refuge-specific nature talks from Addison Mohler, Jim Holcomb, and Doug Cleveland.

Around the water cooler...

Centennial Job Corps crews will begin construction soon on a disabled-accessible ramp to the nature trail viewing blind. This will provide access to diverse visitors and through all seasons, but does mean that access will be restricted during construction, which is planned for completion sometime in December. Call for updates!

Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Did you notice those fantastic wildlife cutouts at the top of the Visitor Center entrance road last month? Those fun and colorful cutouts were provided in part by the Friends of Deer Flat and help draw many families to Refuge events. Thank you Friends!!! This is just one example of many successful and great Friends projects. If you enjoy volunteering and want to support the Refuge in another way, think about becoming a Friends member. Membership starts at \$10 and are tax deductible. If you're already a member, memberships can make great holiday gifts! **For more information about**



membership or Friends volunteering, contact Genevieve Johannsen at gcj_83651@yahoo.com or 891-5103.

Upcoming Events

Wild About Life Lecture Series: Tuesday November 13th, 7 PM

Wintering Raptors: Neil Paprocki, Raptor Biology M.Sc. Candidate, BSU. Neil Paprocki's Master's research at Boise State University has focused on the population changes of wintering raptors in southwest Idaho over the last 20 years. Using locally intensive surveys and historic Christmas Bird Count data, Neil explores whether habitat change, climate change, or both, are influencing changes in southwestern Idaho's wintering raptors.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Scout Day Leaders (3-4 volunteers per month)

Dates and Time: Usually 1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. **Upcoming dates: Nov 3, Dec 1, & Jan 12**

Scout Day is a free environmental education opportunity for 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

Wildlife Artist (1-2 volunteers)

Dates and Times: At your convenience

Calling all artists! Would you be interested in lending your artistic talent towards the Refuge? We are looking to create volunteer awards for future recognition events, and we would like to have a drawings of wildlife etched onto these awards. If you enjoy drawing and would like to draft up some wildlife art, think about volunteering! **Deadline to register: December 1.**

Winter Day Camp (2-3 volunteers for 2 days)

We are beginning to plan for a February winter day camp. Help teach children in second through fourth grades about hibernation, migration and the challenges of survival in winter. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. Contact Kim (Maureen_Portwood@fws.gov, 467-9278) if you are interested in helping!

Visitor Center Host (8-10 volunteers per month)

Dates and Times: Saturdays throughout the year, 10am-4pm

The Visitor Center is open on Saturdays 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—We always need a few extra people on the roster to make schedules work out. Sign up now!

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

Dates and Time: 1st & 3rd Mondays (10:00am and 2:00pm)

A free wildlife-focused story hour for pre-schoolers. **To free up education staff's time, we are seeking volunteers to 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 Heidi_Fencik@fws.gov
Or (208)-467-9278.

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Kash Anderson and Heidi Fencik, Volunteer Coordinators