

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter • November-December 2013

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities!

Volunteers are especially needed for the following projects: **Winter Day Camp** (seeking a co-leader, a helper, and a photographer) and **Visitor Center Hosting**. See the next page for more information!

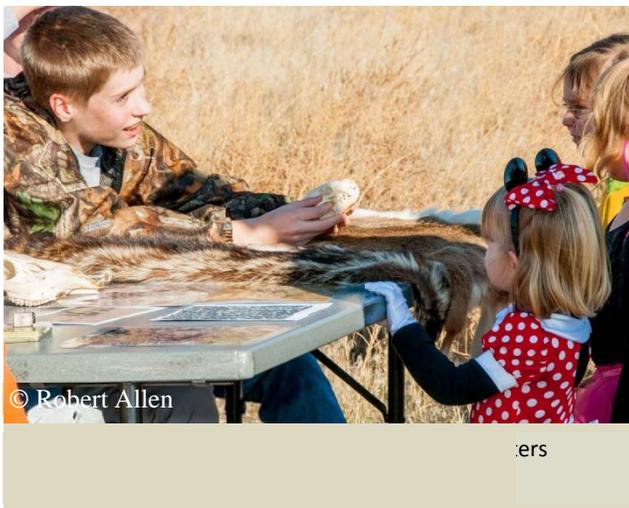
What's New?

Thanks to all of you for your patience during the government shutdown last month. We know that many of you were eager to get back to your volunteer activities and Refuge-based recreation, and we appreciate your enthusiasm for the Refuge! Fall weather has certainly arrived, and it's a great time of year for wildlife-viewing, photography, and hunting. If you're out volunteering or recreating on the Refuge, be sure to be aware of hunters. And if you're out hunting, have a safe hunt!

Cheers!

Thanks to all the volunteers and partners who helped with the annual duck banding way back in September. This year's totals: 81 male and 102 female mallards and 2 male pintails. 2 of the female mallards had already been banded as young birds in Caldwell—one in 2005 and one in 2006.

A big thank you to the 75 Liberty Charter School students who spent a September day collecting two truck-loads of litter at Lake Lowell. The low water levels presented a great opportunity to pick up trash from the lakebed.



Many thanks to our Creepy Critters volunteers and sponsors (Friends of Deer Flat, Wissel Farms, & Domino's Pizza). The event was a terrific success and we could not have done it without you. Nearly 400 visitors "encountered" nature in an up close and personal way. They left with smiles on their faces (and candy in their bellies). Bravo!

Around the water cooler... Refuge staff were happy to welcome a new residential volunteer in September, Paige Engelbrektsson. Unfortunately, she will be leaving us next week, but she has been a great help with several projects, including developing a Refuge plant collection, prepping taxidermy mounts and skulls for environmental education programs, and helping teach kids about nature through Creepy Critters and educational programs. Many thanks, Paige!

Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports the Refuge in many ways. Meet some new Friends and find out how you can get involved at the annual member potluck at 5 PM on Tuesday, December 10th. You might also consider the gift of a Friends membership or something from the book store for the upcoming holidays! Memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. **For more information about Friends volunteering or membership, contact friendsofdf@yahoo.com.**



Upcoming Events *Unless otherwise stated, all activities take place at the Refuge Visitor Center*

Wild About Life Lecture Series—Tuesday, Dec 10th 7 PM

Nature's Light Show: The Geminids Meteor Shower. Paul Verhage of the Boise Astronomical Society will prep you for the upcoming Geminids meteor shower. Find out what meteors are and how to observe them. See real meteorites.

Friends of Deer Flat Annual Potluck Dinner—Dec 10th, 5:30 PM

Why not come a little early for the December lecture. The public is cordially invited to the Friends of Deer Flat annual potluck dinner and general meeting. Enjoy good food with others who love the Refuge while learning about how the Friends support the Refuge and connect people with wildlife.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Hibernate, Migrate, or Insulate: A Wildlife Winter Survival Guide—Thursday, Jan 2nd or Friday, Jan 3rd from 9-2:30 Do squirrels have sleeping bags? Do bears have space heaters? Do geese eat at restaurants? Then how do they survive the challenges of winter? Children in second through fourth grades are invited to join us at this interactive winter day camp.

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

Winter Day Camp, Thursday, Jan 1st and Friday, Jan 2nd (2-3 volunteers)

Winter day camp is always fun, but we need help making it happen! We need volunteers to help 1) **co-lead** by teaching 2nd-4th graders about the challenges of survival in winter, 2)

chaperone students throughout the day and help with activities, and 3) **take photographs**. No experience necessary; training is provided. Contact Kacey (Kacey_Kai@fws.gov, 467-9278) to find out more or sign up to help!

Visitor Center Host (2 volunteers per Saturday)

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

Volunteers make it possible for the Refuge Visitor Center to be open every Saturday, but it is becoming more difficult to fill the schedule. If you enjoy interacting with people and sharing wildlife stories with visitors, then this might be the opportunity for you! Training is provided. **We will be developing the January-March schedule in early December, so please sign up before December 10!**

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Scout Day (2-3 volunteers per month)

Date and Time: 1st Saturday of every month from 1-3 PM.

We need volunteers to lead programs that include nature crafts and a short hike for this free educational opportunity for Scouts to earn various wildlife related badges. No experience necessary—only a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn! **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

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

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

Preschoolers are invited to this free, bi-monthly, wildlife-focused story and craft time. 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.**



USFWS/Addison Mohler

During fall and winter, the Refuge provides a migratory stopover or wintering area for tens of thousands of waterfowl.

To find out more about or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, contact Susan Kain or Kacey Kai at deerflat@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!