

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • October 2012

What's new?

Fall is here! That means the last day of the boating season on the 30th of September, but that also means hunting for some of you. Dove and quail opened in September, and duck, pheasant, and deer seasons will get underway in October. That includes the new Lake Lowell special permit controlled deer hunt from 10/10-11/24. So if you are out and about on the South side of the refuge during that time, be cautious and consider wearing hunter orange.

Cheers!

Thanks to all the duck banding volunteers who helped us capture and band 101 mallards, 59 pintails, and 10 green-winged teals. The team of Kyle, Todd, Bob and his two grand-daughters, Darin and Cyndi, George and Ian, Larry, Roy, Al, Alexander, Paul, Christina, Chris, Heidi, Kash, and Kim managed to band all the ducks in just one hour and kept the ducks safe!



Photo FWS

Big thank yous are also in order for the 98 students at Liberty and Victory Charter Schools who spent a day stacking driftwood and creating habitat for small birds and mammals. They worked very hard for several hours to create many large driftwood piles that refuge wildlife will surely make use of this winter.

Thanks also to Boy Scout Pack 141 for their trash removal work. In just one and a half hours these hard-working boys removed three bags of trash from the east Upper Dam and the east side of Gotts Point. Their efforts will help keep our refuge beautiful and our wildlife safe from harm.



Liberty and Victory Charter Schools
creating driftwood habitat (photo FWS)

Around the water cooler...

Refuge staff were happy to welcome two new team members in September: AmeriCorps environmental educator Kim Portwood and AmeriCorps volunteer coordinator Heidi Fencik. They've certainly hit the ground running and the staff look forward to working with them. Next time you're at the refuge, stop by to introduce yourself!

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

This month, Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge, the Refuge's non-profit Friends group. Is hosting a couple of fun events. See the next page for more information. This all-volunteer group helps the Refuge by coordinating volunteer projects, hosting events, and raising funds and writing grants for Refuge projects (such as our great Discover Wildlife Journey field trip series). If you enjoy volunteering, appreciate the Refuge, and want to help even more, think about becoming a Friends member! Membership starts at \$10, and all contributions are tax deductible. **For more information about membership or Friends volunteering, contact Genevieve Johannsen at friendsofdf@yahoo.com or 891-5103.**



Boy Scout Pack 141 (photo FWS)



Upcoming Events

Wild About Life Lecture Series: Tuesday, October 9th, 7 PM

All About Bird Songs: Complete with stereo recordings of the songs, Steve Bouffard, Retired Biologist and Refuge Manager for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, will help us explore some of the amazing things birds can do with song and learn the differences between bird and mammal song producing organs. This is a free presentation and will take place at the Visitor Center.

The Big Sit 2012: Sunday, October 14th, 7 AM – 7 PM

Kick off National Wildlife Refuge Week by counting and watching birds with the Southwest Idaho Birder's Association and Friends of Deer Flat. Participants can sign up for an hour timeslot (or more) and will sit in a big circle on the Visitor Center lawn listening and watching for birds. Field guides and binoculars will be available for checkout, but you are encouraged to bring chairs and snacks. To sign up or to learn more, email friendsofdf@yahoo.com or call 467-9278.

NWR Week Celebration: Saturday, October 20th, 10 AM – 2 PM

Friends of Deer Flat is sponsoring this family-oriented celebration of our National Wildlife Refuges. Enjoy crafts, lectures, and even learn about ham radio operation as they join the Friends to celebrate Refuges.

Century of Conservation book signing: Thursday, October 25th, 5 PM

Refuge volunteer Bob Sobba will be signing copies of his new Refuge history book, *A Century of Conservation* at the Rubaiyat bookstore in downtown Caldwell at 722 Arthur St. The books cost \$10 and all proceeds go to the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. Please come out and support the Friends group.

Creepy Critter Encounters: Saturday, October 27th, 4-6:30 PM

A fun Halloween event for kids and kids at heart. Come in costume to see live owl, snake, and "bugs". Learn about wildlife on a spooky hike and make crafts.. Find out about creepy creatures like bats, skunks, spiders and owls. Stay until dusk and hoot for owls and coyotes. See volunteer opportunity below for information about how to get involved!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Creepy Critter Encounters (20 volunteers for event)

Date and Time: Saturday, October 27th from 3-7pm. Volunteers are needed to staff the welcome table, craft room and act as guides at wildlife-related stations along the nature trail. **Deadline to register:** Monday, October 19th

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 5

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—we need volunteers now for the new Scout Day season!

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.**

2011 Creepy Critters Volunteers



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