

How Friends Help Connect People to Nature

Interns

Earth Camp (Tennessee NWR – discontinued)

Concerns about USFWS policy preventing activities; Project Leaders not supportive

Art Contest at Bitter Lake NWR – Dragonfly Festival

Earth Caching – Dwight Cooley

Healthy Kids Club – partnering with hospital to “Step into Summer” program

Parent/Kids Day – offer same education programs as held during the week on the weekends so parents get to look into microscopes

Giant fish tank used for fishing clinic – fish died so used canoes instead – very popular

Helped make 8-min. video for walking with doctor’s offices

“Connect to the Past” – keep heritage festivals/ farm days and include neat things for families

Added Junior Board member to Friends group – junior or senior high schooler – increased participation from high school kids in all events

Mackay Island NWR – asked about using current schools that do visit the refuge to mentor/partner underserved schools who do not visit (give to Bonnie)

Song written by local high schoolers, recorded by high school choir, on refuge, endangered species, etc. Rap songs, whatever – iPod downloads?

Ducks Unlimited Green Wings program does include wetland rap...

Junior Friends group – under 18 years – Junior Ranger – Junior Explorer Club

Letterboxing.org – like geocaching.com, but easier to do

State Farm Service Learning grants - \$8,000 - \$100,000

National Archery in the schools – Deep Fork NWR, OK – several other field stations participate. Very popular

Cindy Samples – 507/452-4233 x-216, Upper Mississippi NWR – virtual geocaching and Let’s Go Outside Back packs. All Region 3 refuges will get 4-5 backpacks.

Target gives Bosque del Apache 1200 free binoculars each year. Look into this partnership.

Scouts work on refuge, mapping invasives.

Family Bird Project by Cornell University Ornithology

Kid's Fishing Clinic – first week in June

Preschool partners with Even Start includes parents

Fishing Day – use schools and had pickups at school to get kids whose parents were unavailable

Fishing Day – target entire 5th grade during school day and make sure busses transport

Use universities/colleges/high schools to translate refuge web pages, brochures, signs

Bosque del Apache Friends raffle a Leica spotting scope, tripod to raise \$3,000 each year for transportation scholarships

Outdoor church camp – environmental focus, stewardship

Arborday.com – Sheila McCarten at Nisqually NWR – Friends helped partner with Arbor Day to create plan for Discovery areas/free play area. Concept plan - \$3500. Could use volunteer hours in-kind to match. More money to develop.

Auction for good cause raised \$1900 in several minutes for bus scholarships (Nisqually NWR)

Eagle Scouts/ Gold Award Girl Scouts great source of volunteers

Girl Scouts do water quality testing in Wilderness Area over the summer

Okefenokee – at Earth Day, hosts learning stations along Wildlife Drive and holds brown paper bag art contest with school children. Everyone completing learning tour gets free t-shirt. Boy Scouts host Leave No Trace station. Local grocery donates brown paper bags to local schools.

Wild Friday for 3-5 year olds and adult

Bon Secour NWR – dune ecosystem restoration project – sea oats

Entrance fees – Becky Halbe invited all to remember that they can be used for Visitor Services

Shutterbug Pals – White River NWR – has a project with socially/troubled youth and digital camera classes. Hope to build in partner refuge so kids could share photos with other refuge doing same thing.

Noxubee NWR – Junior Ranger Program – kids must do 6 events over a year period to complete the passport. They get a hat, badge, book and certificate if they complete program.

Okefenokee NWR – kids photo winner on t-shirts