

News Release

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

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Spring Nature Programs at DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges

Missouri Valley, Iowa – Enjoy nature this spring at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge by attending one of our public programs. The refuge will be hosting a variety of programs for people to learn more about the wildlife, habitats and history of DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges.

Join a refuge ranger on a tour of the refuge to spot wildlife directly related to migratory habitat restoration on the refuge on the “Spring Fling Wildlife Tour.” Conditions vary and you never can be sure of what we’ll see - ducks, eagles, swans, and more. Tours are scheduled for Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. on March 22 and April 5. Reservations encouraged but not required. Please call (712) 388-4800.

Attend Steamboat Bertrand Day on Saturday, March 29. April 1st marks the 149th anniversary of the sinking of the Bertrand. Steamboat Bertrand Day will celebrate commemorate the history the sinking of the Steamboat Bertrand, the recovery and preservation of the cargo and the changes transportation and settlement brought to the Missouri River valley. Visit us that day to participate in fun, family-friendly educational activities.

Chat with a museum curator and learn the inside story of the Steamboat Bertrand, her passengers and the artifacts left behind in our new program “Curator Chat - Curiosities of the Steamboat Bertrand Collection.” New topics will be presented each week. Programs are scheduled for Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m., March 19, April 2, April 16 and April 30 and Saturdays at 1:00 p.m., April 12 and April 26.

Discover or re-discover your local gem - Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge, located just three miles east of Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. Hike a refuge trail with a refuge ranger or volunteer and learn about the history and wildlife of this special place. Meet at the kiosk in the main parking lot. The hike is scheduled for Saturday, April 19 at 1:00 p.m.

An entrance permit is required for all vehicles on days other than fee free days. The regular daily entrance fee for private vehicles is \$3.00. Permits may be obtained at the pay stations near the entrances or at the Visitor Center. The charge for commercial vans and buses is \$20, or \$30 if 21 or more people are aboard. Annual permits, including the \$15 DeSoto Refuge Pass, can be obtained at the visitor center.

(more)

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges are located north of Omaha, Nebraska along on U.S. Highway 30 between Missouri Valley, Iowa and along U.S. Highway 75 near Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska. For more information contact 712/388-4800 or email the refuge at desoto@fws.gov. Check our websites, www.fws.gov/midwest/desoto/ or www.fws.gov/midwest/boyerchute/, for refuge updates. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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