

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

April 2014



What's New?

Field trip season has officially started! We have already seen school groups from Cache Valley and the Ogden area as well as our Box Elder County Fourth-graders, and we anticipate many more. Amber Greening, who has been working at Hardware Ranch this winter, is helping us with our Wetland Wonders fourth grade field trips, and we are very grateful for her help!

On a bittersweet note, our full-time volunteer, Janet Anderson, will be leaving us this week for a National Park Ranger job at Mount Saint Helens. Congrats Janet! Thanks for your hard work and we'll miss you!

As we say a sad goodbye to Janet, we welcome Caitlin Stahl from Indiana University who will be joining us on May 15th along with SCA Interns Noah Thomas and Evan Mitchel who will join us soon after.



Thumbs-Up!

A big **THANK YOU** to all our volunteers who helped with Sense of Wonder Day last week! We saw a smaller number of people than we expected, but those who came had a great time. We also want to thank our partners at the Ogden Nature Center, Brigham City Fine Arts Center, Hardware Ranch, Utah State Parks, Leave No Trace, and at USU Herpetology and Water Quality Extension. Everyone did a great job, and we learned a lot for next year.

Thanks to our great panel of judges, the Junior Duck Stamp winners have been selected! The judges deliberated carefully when selecting the best original composition from 255 entries. The winning artwork is on display in the Wildlife Education Center, and the award ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 10 in honor of International Migratory Bird Day.

Refuge Roundup

Around the Wildlife Education Center, Double-crested cormorants have been spotted along with Sandhill cranes, American pelicans, Great Blue herons, Cliff swallows, Western meadowlarks, Yellow-headed blackbirds, Pied-billed grebes, and our usual American coots and various ducks. We also have nesting Canada Geese and Killdeer around the Wetland Walk! Other species, including Snowy and Great egrets, Black-crowned night heron, Hooded and Common mergansers, Cinnamon and Green-winged teal, Bonaparte's and Franklin's gulls, Caspian terns, and American avocets have been spotted in other parts of the Refuge



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

❖ **May 10: Jr. Duck Stamp Awards on International Migratory Bird Day!**



The results are in! The 2014 Junior Duck Stamp winners have been selected and we will host the Award Ceremony 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 10. The Best of Show, shown at left, was drawn by talented Zhiwen Xu, age 13. It is a beautiful mixed media piece titled, “Male Mallard in Flight”. Once chosen here, it was entered into the National Jr. Duck Stamp competition, where it did not place in the national competition but is the absolute winner of our hearts. Beautiful! *See below right for National 2nd Place winner, “Trumpeter Swan with Cygnets” by Andrew Kneeland.*

❖ **May 14: Interpretive Training at Golden Spike National Monument**

Would you like to hone your storytelling and interpretive skills? Join in for a National Park Service Training May 14, 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at Golden Spike NM. See Kathi to register – FREE !



Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- ❖ **April 22: Official Earth Day**
- ❖ **May 10: Intl. Migratory Bird Day Open House & Jr. Duck Stamp Awards**
- ❖ **May 14: Interpretive Training at Golden Spike NM, call Kathi to register**
- ❖ **May 15 – 19: Great Salt Lake Bird Festival**
- ❖ **May 26: Memorial Day (we’re closed)**
- ❖ **May 21 – 22: Bird Banner Parties**
- ❖ **May 24: Promontory Kindergarten Book Signing Celebration**
- ❖ **June 9 – 13: Nature Art Camp**
- ❖ **June 18: Going away party for Charlotte**

AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE

Tracy has brought back her handmade bags made from recycled materials! The water bottle holders will be on sale for \$5.00 and the larger bags are \$10.00. Be sure to also check out the cute new Earth Day shirts!

