

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

September 2013



What's New?



Jack Heisler at a Refuge event.

Big news with Refuge Staff, as some of you already know Jack Heisler has accepted a position at a different Refuge and will be leaving Bear River. Jack is heading to Tewaukon NWR which is located in southeastern North Dakota along the western edge of the northern tallgrass prairie. Established in 1945, the 8,363-acre Refuge is also joined with a Water Management District totaling almost 70,000 acres. While we are sad to see him go, this move is great for Jack as he will be Deputy Project Leader and much closer to his family in Minnesota. After spending 5 ½ years here at Bear River, Jack's last day will be September 27th. Join us for Jack's going away party on Monday September 23rd at 11:30am. Please be armed with funny stories and a dish to share.

Thumbs-Up!

We want to send out a big THANK YOU to all of our fabulous volunteers! We could not keep the visitor center going without the gracious giving of your time and talents. Your help at the front desk and in all of the capacities you give has been especially appreciated this year as we navigate our new budget changes.

Now that we are getting ready to settle into our Fall routine, Kathi is working on recruiting volunteers to fill hours needed at the front desk. If you can volunteer another shift, or know somebody who would be a great addition to our volunteer family, please let Kathi know.

Everybody loves a parade! Kathi, Mindy, Bob, Lisa, Greg and families took the airboat out to participate in our 4th annual Peach Days Parade. Kathi and Mindy report the float was heartily cheered through the entire route. Good job guys!

Refuge Roundup

Being September, both Fall and hunting season are right around the corner, so it's good to have some updates on water levels and hunting units before our visitors (hunters and birders alike) begin to ask. The special youth only hunt is Saturday, Sept. 21 and unit 2 and the hunt portions of 3 will be open for this youth day. The main hunt opener is Saturday, Oct. 6. There are currently many dry units on the Refuge as well as the surrounding area which will have a major impact on waterfowl migration. Units that currently have water include northwestern portions of Unit 3-Duckville Area (at target) and main portion of Unit 2 (below target). Staff will push water to units, one at a time depending on river flow, from West to East.

See the map at the front desk or on the website for more detailed information.

Bird Life: The shorebirds are continuing on their fall migration, while the waterfowl are just arriving. Over 100,000 ducks and geese are already on the Refuge. Pelicans, cormorants, egrets and herons continue to be visitor favorites along the Auto Tour Loop. Even a few grebes still have babies on board.



The L-line project will affect hunting activities this year in Unit 1A.

Volunteers Marilyn and Brian learning CPR & 2013 Peach Days Parade. Photos by Jennifer Bunker



Odds and Ends

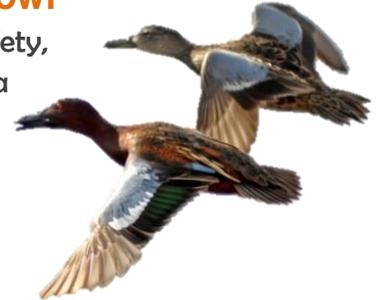
 **Fall teaching season is here** and Katie will be gone a couple of days a week teaching at Hardware Ranch. Reinforcements for teaching are coming; **an SCA intern for Environmental Education is on her way.** We hope to have Charlotte Mason start the 1st week of October. This will help lighten the teaching load and the position is through June 2014. Charlotte will be here all winter and spring to help with teaching, events and more!

 **You've been promoted!** Volunteers who work at the front desk have been promoted to "Assistant Park Ranger."

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

❖ September 28: **Waterfowl Basics with DELTA Waterfowl**

To celebrate and educate our local youth about hunting and hunting safety, the Refuge is hosting a **Waterfowl Basics** day in partnership with, Delta Waterfowl. Free fun activities include: duck calling, hunter safety, waterfowl identification, decoying techniques. Plus, Dog Demonstrations and Banding 101 with Refuge Biologist! The event will be Saturday, September 28th from 10 am – 2pm. We are still looking for a couple of volunteers, please let Katie know if you are interested.



❖ October 12: **National Wildlife Refuge Week**

Saturday, October 12 will be a fun and busy day at the Refuge. In celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week we will have an open house featuring animal tracks. Stop in for free games, crafts and track displays. Plus, the prizes for our **2013 Amateur Photo Contest** will awarded at 1:00pm in the auditorium. Let Katie know if you would like to help out with this event. We hope you can join us!



Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- **September 21: Special Youth Only Waterfowl Hunt Day**
- **September 23: Jack's going away party 11:30am**
- **September 28: Waterfowl Basics with Delta Waterfowl 10-2**
- **October 5: Waterfowl Hunting season opens**
- **October 12: NWRW Open House & Photo Awards**



AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE

Volunteers, are you a member of the "Friends of the Bear River MBR?" For just \$20.00 per person (\$15.00 senior or \$35.00 family) you will help out the refuge and also receive 10% off of your store purchases!

Look what's new! Tracy has stocked these beautiful mugs and water bottles in the bookstore just in time for fall hikes and warm apple cider. Recycle your old mugs and come on in!