

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo USFWS / Susan Kain

January 2016

Winter frost by the Visitor Center

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities Volunteers especially needed for:

NNU Science Extravaganza—Help 5th-9th graders with bird beak experiments.

Discover Wildlife Journeys— Lead field trip groups and influence the next generation of conservationists.

Jr. Duck Stamp Art Days — Help K-12 students draw, have fun, and learn about waterfowl.

What's New?

The Grebe's Nest Nature Store in the Visitor Center is now open Mondays 9-noon & 1-4, Tuesdays 8-4, Wednesdays 9-noon, Fridays 10-2, and Saturdays 10-4. Proceeds from the store fund conservation projects and public outreach events at the Refuge. For questions or more information contact Bob Faller at 208-467-6676.

Cheers

Happy New Year! Thank you to all who helped this past year with all Refuge projects. We couldn't do it without volunteers!

We want to give an extra shout-out to Steve Kehoe and his hardy crew of Wednesday and Friday morning maintenance and habitat volunteers. We look forward to welcoming them back when the weather improves.

Around the Water Cooler...

Our new Environmental Educator, Mia Callahan, has a secret identity:

She is also an astrophysicist!

"That's what I got my undergraduate degree in," Mia admits. "As an undergrad I knew I wanted to get people excited about science, and I loved to get people excited about space. So I'm jazzed to be helping plan a Refuge star party event for March."

Look to the skies (and our newsletter) in the months to come for information about some stellar volunteer opportunities at Deer Flat!

Friends of Deer Flat Refuge

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports Refuge activities. Friends memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. Email friendsofdwr@gmail.com for more info.



*Volunteers install bat boxes
by the Visitor Center
Photo USFWS*



Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center.

Reading at the Refuge

Monday, January 4th at 10am and repeats at 2 pm. Preschoolers and their parents are invited to a wildlife-focused story time. *No Reading on January 18 for the holiday.*



2015-16 Junior Duck Stamp (Art by Andrew Kneeland, Wyoming)

Junior Duck Stamp Art Days

Jan 9, 16, 23, 30; Feb 6, 13, 20, 27; Mar 5. K-12 students are invited to drop in to draw and learn about Idaho waterfowl. All art supplies are provided for them to create their own Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest entry. Junior Duck Stamp entries are due by March 15th.

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

NUU Science Extravaganza— February 3 & 5, morning to mid-afternoon. 2-3 people (age 20+) needed to help 5th to 9th graders get excited about science at the Northwest Nazarene University campus. No experience is necessary; training will be provided.

Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders— Tuesdays & Thursdays starting in April. Help influence the next generation of conservationists(4th-6th graders) by connecting them with nature! Training will be provided.

Junior Duck Stamp Art Days— Saturdays January 9th—March 5th. Volunteers help K-12 students draw and learn about Idaho waterfowl to enter the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. You don't need to be an artist: all training provided. **Deadline to register:** Ongoing.

Reading at the Refuge— 1st and 3rd Mondays 10 am and 2pm. We are seeking volunteers to select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts and read to kids.

Water Quality Field Trip Assistants—

March 28 and April 1, 8:30am-2:30pm. Chaperone 7th graders and help them collect water samples and conduct other activities during their Refuge visit to collect science fair data. No experience is necessary; training will be provided.

Community Outreach Leader—Various times and dates, mostly evenings and weekends.

The Refuge is invited to exhibit and provide activities at many community events. Unfortunately, we miss some of these opportunities because we don't have enough staff, time, or energy to attend. Help us build partnerships with the community while checking out these fun events for yourself. We are seeking responsible, dedicated volunteers to be trained on outreach and take the lead on gathering materials, working with other volunteers to facilitate activities, and setting up/ taking down Refuge booths.

To sign up or find out more, contact Wendy Irwin at deerflat@fws.gov (208) 467-9278