

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo USFWS/Irwin

April 2016

Jefferson Middle School Field Trip

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

Visitor Center Landscaping (*Ongoing, flexible*)—Help control weeds and tidy up the garden spaces.

Migration Celebration (*May 14, 1:00-6:00p*)—Staff a table or guide an activity at our new event.

Monarch monitoring (*Flexible, training May 20*)— Help collect data on Refuge monarch butterfly

populations. **Maintenance Crew Mondays** (*Mondays, 7:30a-noon*)— Work outside and help fight weeds.

What's New?

The Lake is open! Between April 15 and September 30, Lake Lowell is open to all motorized and non-motorized boating. New this year: there will soon be buoys marking a closed grebe nesting area near the Narrows. If you're boating, please watch for signs and buoys. And always keep your eyes out for grebes and other wildlife!

Cheers!

It's National Volunteer Week! Thank you to our Refuge volunteers and Friends for all you do to keep this place running.

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped with the Caldwell middle school field trips: Alex, Bob, Doug, George, Karen, Mike, Miles, Pat, Rignee, and Zach. The students collected data for their science fair projects, and as Environmental Educator Mia Callahan said: "We couldn't have pulled this off without your help!"



Students net invertebrates during a field trip (Photo USFWS/Kain)

Around the Water Cooler

The ospreys are back and carrying nesting materials to the platform near the Visitor Center. To reduce disturbance, part of the Nature Trail is closed during the nesting season, but you can still loop back to the Visitor Center on the trail to the pollinator garden. Keep an eye out for closure signs as you are out on your walks.

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports

Refuge activities. Help

them celebrate their

10th anniversary at the

Migration Celebration on May 14th.

See next page for more info. Friends memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. Email friendsofdfwr@gmail.com for more info.



Upcoming Events

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

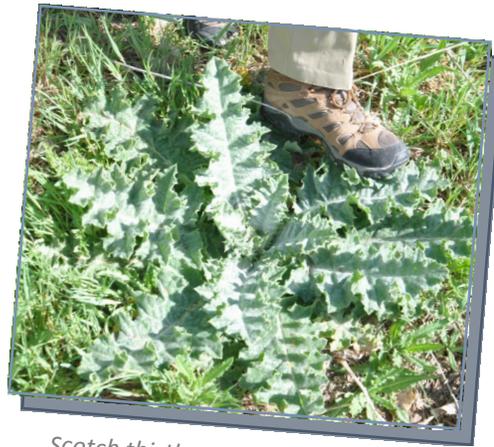
Reading at the

Refuge—Apr 18, May 2 & 16, 10:00a and 2:00p.

Preschoolers are invited to a wildlife-focused story time.

Migration Celebration—May 14, 2:00-

5:00p. Did you know that that monarch butterflies can travel between 50-100 miles a



Scotch thistle, one of the weeds we are working to eradicate
Photo USFWS/Irwin

day on their migration? Celebrate these and other amazing migrants at our new, family-friendly refuge event! Come out to see live birds, and participate in activities like Migration Olympics and Bird Karaoke.

Volunteer Appreciation Event:

Bird Walk—May 23, 8:30-10:30a.

Refuge volunteers are cordially invited to join birder Terry Rich on an avian expedition along the Kingfisher Trail. Contact Wendy Irwin (information below) for details and to sign up. 12 person limit.

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

Think you might not have the skills needed to help? Don't worry! Training is provided.

Visitor Center Landscaping—Ongoing, flexible times. Help keep the xeriscape, pollinator garden, and other Visitor Center landscaping looking pretty for visitors.

Migration Celebration—May 14, 1:00-6:00p. Help make possible this afternoon of migration-themed fun and learning! Help staff a table or guide an activity at this new event.

Monarch monitoring—Times flexible throughout the summer. Training to take place on the afternoon of May 20 Help collect data on Refuge monarch butterfly populations.

Maintenance Crew/Weed Warriors—Now on Mondays, too 7:45a-noon. Help with weed control and various outdoor projects around the refuge. Volunteers also still needed for the regular Wednesday and Friday morning Maintenance Crews.

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Helpers—flexible times. Sort and return judged artwork along with certificates/prizes/ribbons to all participants. Help needed all this month. Specific times can be set up for teams to work together.

Grebe Surveys—Times TBA, April-August. Travel in a Refuge boat and help count grebe nests.

Visitor Center Host—Weekly on Monday mornings or Wednesday afternoons. Greet Refuge visitors, answer phones, and help staff with various projects. Willingness to undergo a background check for computer access a plus.

Outreach Opportunities

Staff a table at local venues and events to help spread the word about the refuge!

Nampa or Caldwell Library—Flexible dates.

Nampa Public Library Reading Kickoff Party—Saturday, June 4, 10a-early afternoon.

Nampa Farmers Market—May-October, 9:00a-1:00p.