

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



USFWS/Susan Kain

April 2015

Saw-whet Owl sighting during Wood Duck box surveys

**Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities** Volunteers are especially needed for the following projects: ***Earth Day Work Day Crew Leaders and Volunteers*** (habitat restoration event) and ***Weed Warrior Volunteers*** (spray or manually remove noxious weeds). See next page for more information.

### Cheers!

National Volunteer Week (April 12-18) is about inspiring, recognizing, and encouraging people to be involved in their communities, so thanks to all of our volunteers! You help us meet our mission to conserve and protect wildlife as well as connect others to nature.

To show our gratitude we are having a ***Volunteer Movie Night*** see details below!

Also thanks to Wood Duck survey volunteers Bob, LeRoy, Chuck, Ammon, Cheryl, Tammy, Susan, Jim, Dean, Maddy, Cathy and especially Jim and Jimmie for leading this great volunteer opportunity!



Wood Duck box survey volunteers  
Photo courtesy Mackenzie Tietjen

### What's New?

The osprey has returned to its nest and with this beautiful weather we've been having, so have many other migrants. Come take a look.

### Around the water cooler...

We want to welcome our new RV volunteer Joan! She will be helping out with Discover Wildlife Journeys and much more!

Jim H. is one of our most dedicated volunteers. He has volunteered at the refuge for more than 13 years and for over 1,160 hours. He has helped with everything from environmental education to maintenance work to leading biological surveys. We are sure he has inspired many youth to learn more about birds and nature. He will be moving soon so we just want to give a shout out. Thanks Jim. We'll miss you!

### Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge



The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization. Memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. Email [friendsofdfwr@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdfwr@gmail.com) for more info about memberships or getting involved.



**Upcoming Events** *Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center*

**Volunteer Movie Night**

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 7pm- 8pm

All volunteers are invited to a volunteer movie night! We will watch a nature film, have nature trivia, and refreshments. Come meet and mingle with other volunteers as well as refuge staff. Please **RSVP by April 17<sup>th</sup>**



*Earth Day Work Day Volunteers  
Photo courtesy Kacey Kai*

**Wild About Life Lecture:  
Jewels of the Sky**

Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7PM Join us for our *last* lecture of this season.

Several hummingbird species are found in Idaho and mesmerize with their showy colors and amazing acrobatics. Biologist Carl Rudeen will discuss all of the unique aspects of hummingbirds. Come early for a brief discussion of hummingbird banding and banding demonstration at 6:00pm

**Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!**

**Earth Day Work Day Crew Leaders and**

**Volunteers**—April 18th 9:00am-12:00pm

Celebrate Earth Day by either being a volunteer or a crew leader. Training provided beforehand for crew leaders. Improve wildlife habitat by removing noxious weeds, picking up litter, and many more projects. **Pre-register by April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Weed Warriors** — Dates: To be arranged with crew and leader, but mostly weekdays. Help!

Noxious and invasive weeds are one of our biggest challenges in maintaining healthy wildlife habitat, and we need your help to battle them. We have a crew leader, but need a crew to join him to get outside and spray or manually remove weeds.

**Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

**Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Helpers—**

At your convenience The winning artwork has been selected! Help sort and return artwork along with the certificates and ribbons. Help needed all this month. Contact us to set up a time to come in.

**Day Camp Helpers—Biodiversity Basics June 1<sup>st</sup>-**

June 5<sup>th</sup> Desert Detectives July 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 9am-12:30pm

Help Kacey run one of our summer day camps for kids! Volunteers are needed to help lead activities and chaperone students throughout the day.

**BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day — June 12<sup>th</sup> and**

13th Save the date! More info TBA.

**Nyssa Kids' Fair** — May 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am-3pm The Refuge will

have a booth at Nyssa's Annual Community Health Fair. Volunteers needed to help involve visitors in the interactive activities at our booth. We can meet at the Refuge and drive together to Nyssa.

**Refuge Ambassador**—weekday evenings and

weekends June-August. Many Lake Lowell users are unaware that they are at Deer Flat NWR. A Refuge Ambassador would act as an on-site connection between the Refuge and the community by engaging them in conversation and hands-on activities about outdoor recreation and wildlife monitoring.

**Monarch Sightings**— Seeing a monarch butterfly is

always exciting but next time you see one you could be helping scientists! Scientists are actively tagging monarchs in southern Idaho and they are asking you to contact [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) with any monarch sightings. Pictures and tag readings preferred.

**Gardening at the Visitor Center**— Spring,

Summer, and Fall Do you enjoy working outdoors? Pruning, trimming, and weeding help is needed to maintain the water-conservation and pollinator gardens at the Visitor Center.

**Reading at the Refuge** — 1st & 3rd Mondays

10:00am and 2:00pm—We need volunteers to lead storytelling and crafting with pre-schoolers. Stories and crafts provided.

**Donations Wanted**

**Wildlife Picture Books:** For use in our environmental education program.

*Please drop donations at the Visitor Center!*

To sign up or find out more contact Mackenzie Tietjen, Volunteer Coordinator at [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) (208)-467-9278