

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo USFWS/ Mackenzie Tietjen

August 2015

Monarch Butterfly during Monarch Monitoring at the Refuge

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities Volunteers especially needed for: **Visitor Counting** (drive around Refuge and count visitors) and **Duck Banding** (help staff band and count ducks). See next page for more information.

Cheers!

Thanks to our Weed Warrior and Maintenance Crew! Twice a week they battle noxious and invasive weeds and do a variety of maintenance projects to make the Refuge a better place for wildlife and visitors.

Thanks to Maizie, Starlynn, Tami, Delaney, Mike, Pat, Lindsay, and Cheyenne for helping with Desert Detectives Day Camp!

What's New?

Volunteers have begun monitoring monarch butterflies and have found eggs, caterpillars, and adults! The data they collect will help scientists better understand the western monarch migration and also help the Refuge decide how to best manage for monarchs and other pollinators. We are still training volunteers, so see next page for more information and how to get involved.

Around the water cooler...

Welcome to our new Law Enforcement Officer Colby Clevenger. We will be sad to see two people head back to school in August. Thank you to Elena for her outreach this summer to the Latino community as part of the Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative. Also, many thanks to AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator Mackenzie for all she has done this year!

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife 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 friendsofdfwr@gmail.com for more info about memberships or getting involved.



YCC crew working on Monarch Monitoring
Photo USFWS/Annette deKnijf



Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center

Reading at the Refuge

Monday August 3rd and 17th at 10am and repeating at 2pm

Preschool children and their parents are invited to a free wildlife-focused story hour for preschoolers.



*Western Grebe
Photo courtesy Linda Israel*

National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 26 from 9am-noon.

Mark your calendars now for this day of service in celebration of the Refuge and other public lands. Projects will be announced in September. Earn a fee-free pass good for one year for a day of free entry to National Public Lands.

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

Visitor Counting Surveyor—

Up to 4 weekdays/month and 2 weekends/month

Morning: 2 hours between 8am and noon or

Afternoon: 2 hours between noon and 4pm

Volunteer surveyors drive around the Refuge in a Refuge vehicle to count the number of vehicles at each access point. Data are used to estimate total Refuge visitation. This is a long-term, year-round opportunity.

Duck Banding —September 11th 6-9am

Help the Refuge staff and partners band and count ducks! Volunteers will help secure nets and gather ducks from the nets to place in the holding boxes or pass to staff to band. Basic duck species identification skills are recommended, but not needed.

Monarch Monitoring — Ongoing, upcoming training August 3rd 8am-10am

Become a Citizen Scientist and join the monarch conservation effort. Monarch numbers have greatly declined and a nationwide effort is needed to better understand their population and better conserve these creatures. Contact us if you are interested in monitoring a milkweed patch on the Refuge. Also, keep an eye out for monarchs and contact deerflat@fws.gov with any monarch sightings. Pictures and tag readings preferred.

Volunteer Program Assistant — 4-16 hours/week

Since the Volunteer Coordinator AmeriCorps position changes each year and sometimes cannot be funded, we are looking for solutions to make the volunteer program more sustainable. A Volunteer Program Assistant would do all or some of the following: recruiting, orienting, and training new volunteers; coordinating ongoing opportunities; and leading projects. Contact us for more information.

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Photographer — At your convenience

Donate your photography skills to promote the Refuge. We are always in a need of great photos that showcase the Refuge, wildlife, and activities. Your photos will then be used in outreach materials. Contact us to sign up and find out what kind of photos we are looking for.

Collecting Owl Pellets — At your convenience

Participants in our education programs have used nearly all of our owl pellet stash, so we need more! If you find owl pellets or know where we can find them, please bring them to the Visitor Center or let us know where to collect them.

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