

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Photo Courtesy Wendy Irwin



December 2015

Autumn sunrise over Lake Lowell

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities Volunteers especially needed for:
Winter Day Camp (be a helper, co-lead, or take photos), **Jr. Duck Stamp Art Days** (help K-12 students draw, have fun, and learn about Idaho waterfowl).

Cheers!

Every day at the Refuge is different. There are subtle grey and pink sunrises and flaming red ones. The birds come and go, and always there is something to notice.

Volunteer Jack Sutz would agree. "I like the view," he says, when asked why he has hosted at Deer Flat's Visitor Center since 2014. "I like keeping busy," he adds. "And I like meeting people."

Thanks to all the Visitor Center Host volunteers for keeping the Visitor Center open on Saturdays and helping things run smoothly on weekdays. We are very grateful!



*Stan Culling, Deputy Manager at Deer Flat NWR.
Photo USFWS*

What's New?

Idaho Fish and Game recently donated more than 90 sagebrush seedlings left over from a planting project. They are now planted on three experimental restoration plots behind the Visitor Center thanks to the leadership of Caldwell High School senior Leah Maxton and a group of her friends, family, and fellow students.

Around the Water Cooler...

Stan Culling, a dynamic member of the Refuge staff since 2011, will be leaving in January for the Deputy Project Leader position at Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge in southern Arizona. Stan has been a key leader during several important projects and transitions. Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm, Stan. You will be missed!



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

Reading at the Refuge

Monday Dec. 7 & 21 at 10am
and repeating at 2pm

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

Hibernate, Migrate, or

Insulate: A Wildlife Winter Survival

Guide Tues., Dec. 29—Wed., Dec. 30 from 1-4pm Do squirrels have sleeping bags? Do



*Reading at the Refuge.
Photo USFWS/Paige Engelbrektsson*

bears have space heaters? Do geese eat at restaurants? Then how do they survive the challenges of winter? Second to fourth graders must pre-register for this fun winter day camp.

Christmas Bird Count

Sat., Dec. 26 Experienced and novice birders are invited to join in this local survey of wild birds. Last year the Nampa count tallied 102 species! See the Southwestern Idaho Birders Association Facebook page for more information.

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

Winter Day Camp— Tues. Dec. 29-Wed. Dec. 30 Winter Day Camp is always fun, but we need help making it happen! We need volunteers to help 1) **co-lead** by teaching 2nd-4th graders about the challenges of survival in winter, 2) **chaperone students** throughout the day and help with activities, and 3) **take photographs**. No experience necessary; training is provided.

Jr. Duck Stamp Art Days— Saturdays January — early March 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.**

Visitor Center Host— Saturdays all year, 10-4pm Volunteers help keep the Visitor Center open on **Saturdays**. If you enjoy interacting

sharing wildlife stories with visitors, with people and sharing wildlife stories with visitors, this might be the opportunity for you! Training is provided. **Deadline to Register: Sign up before December 10th to get on the January-March schedule.**

Volunteer Program Assistant— 4-16 hours/week Help improve the Refuge Volunteer Program and make it more sustainable by doing some or all of the following: recruiting, orienting, and training new volunteers; coordinating ongoing opportunities; and leading projects. Contact us for more information.

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.



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