

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo USFWS/Wendy Irwin

March 2016

Sunrise at the Upper Dam

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

**Goose Nest Surveys** (*April and May*)—Explore the Snake River Islands Unit to see geese and other wildlife.

**Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders** (*Tuesdays-Thursdays in April & May*)—Connect 4th-6th graders to nature by teaching about animals, insects, and water quality. No experience necessary.

**Earth Day Work Day** (*April 23rd*)— Get outside & give back to your public lands. See next for more info.

### **What's New?**

A pair of bald eagles is nesting near the Observation Hill Trail west of the Refuge Visitor Center. Last year the eagles that nested near there did not succeed in raising young. To increase the chance of success this year, please respect the closure on part of that trail until early July. You can still see the nest and incubating parents (until the trees leaf out) from the observation platform on the Observation Hill Trail.

### **Cheers!**

"I've been checking wood duck boxes at Lake Lowell for over 10 years," says Jimmie Yorgensen, the volunteer who led this year's wood duck box survey teams. "You never know what you'll run into." Apart from evidence of wood duck nesting, "this year we found two screech owls," says Yorgensen. "And there are lots of squirrel babies."

Thanks to Jimmie and all the volunteers who helped with this year's surveys: Al, Alex, Alexander, Andrea, Boyd, Frank, Gary D, Gary M, J.C., Mike, and Ryan.



You never know what you'll find  
in a "wood duck" box  
(Photo © Doug Clegg)

### **Around the Water Cooler**

Deer Flat is helping all Caldwell 7th graders collect science fair data! Some classes will be visiting Lake Lowell to collect water quality data and others will be collecting data at the Boise WaterShed. Students coming to the refuge are assessing how water quality might affect the potential for future blue-green algae blooms.

### **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](mailto:friendsofdfwr@gmail.com) for more info.



## Upcoming Events

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

### **Reading at the Refuge—**

Mar 21, Apr 4 & 18, 10a and 2p. Preschoolers are invited to a wildlife-focused story time.

**Earth Day Work Day—**Apr 23, 9am-noon. See below for more information.



*A Caldwell student learns how to measure pH. Photo USFWS/Callahan*

### **Migration Celebration—**

May 14, 2-5pm. Did you know that Arctic terns fly almost 50,000 miles in a year, traveling between Arctic breeding and Antarctic wintering grounds? Or that monarch butterflies can travel between 50-100 miles a day on their migration? Celebrate these and other amazing migrants. Save the date and watch for more details in the next newsletter!

## Don't-miss Volunteer Opportunities!

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

**Goose Nest Surveys—**April 4-7 & May 2-4, 7:30a-4p. Do you like boats and wildlife? Then explore the Snake River Islands while helping with goose nest surveys. Prepare for long days, wet conditions, rough hiking, and a lot of fun.

### **Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip**

**Leaders —**Tuesdays-Thursdays in April & May. It's not too late to sign up! Connect 4th-6th graders with nature by teaching them about animals, insects, and water quality. Training session April 7.

### **Earth Day Work Day Crew Leaders and**

**Volunteers—**Saturday, Apr 23, 9a-noon. Celebrate Earth Day at Deer Flat! Crew leaders needed, as well as volunteers to improve habitat for wildlife by removing noxious weeds and litter, and maybe more. Deadline to register—Crew leaders: Mar 28; Crew members: Apr 18.

## Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

### **Restoration project maintenance —**

Flexible, ongoing opportunities during the spring-fall months. Help maintain the sagebrush seedlings planted last fall by removing nearby cheatgrass. Seeking volunteer(s) to weed regularly throughout the season.

### **Weed Warriors —**Flexible, ongoing

opportunities during the spring-fall months. Help improve wildlife habitat by battling invasive weeds and plants at the refuge. Seeking volunteer groups as well as individuals.

### **Outreach Opportunities**

Staff a table at local venues and events to help advertise the refuge!

### **Nampa or Caldwell Library —**

Flexible dates.

### **Day of the Child (Nampa) —**

Friday, Apr 29, 3-6p.

### **Nampa Public Library Reading Kickoff**

**Party —**Saturday, June 4, 10a-early afternoon.

### **Nampa Farmers Market —**

May-October, 9a-1p.