

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo © Louis Ruth Photography

May 2016

Morning light, Lake Lowell

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

Monarch Monitoring (*Training May 20, field work flexible/TBA*)—Survey monarch butterfly populations.
Visitor Center Landscaping (*flexible/ongoing*)—Help in the xeriscape garden and with various gardening tasks.
Visitor Center Host (*Monday a.m., Wednesday p.m., Saturday*)— Greet guests and answer phones.

What's New?

In the past month a car was vandalized during the day near the Visitor Center. More seriously, a man was recently beaten and robbed at Gotts Point and later died from his injuries. Please be safety-conscious when you visit the Refuge.

In other more positive news, the Refuge Friends are spearheading a sagebrush steppe restoration project near the Visitor Center. The large brown patch you may have noticed along the Nature Trail will be transformed over the next couple of years into a landscape of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Watch for opportunities to help!

Cheers!

Thanks to goose nest survey volunteers for helping count nests on the Snake River Islands Unit to track Refuge goose populations, which have been declining in recent years.

Thanks to all! *See next page for more info* on volunteer recognition birding expedition. Limited space so sign up soon!



RV volunteers Martin and Deb and volunteer Mike F. lead a field trip on Cinco de Mayo (Photo USFWS/Irwin)

Thanks also to the 90+ brave souls who came out to participate in Earth Day Work Day projects on a cold, rainy, windy Saturday!

Around the Water Cooler

Come say hello to our new RV Volunteers, Deb and Martin Hooker (and their dog, Jake)! Deb and Martin used to work in schools and now spend much of their time traveling and volunteering on National Wildlife Refuges and other public lands.

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 —

May 2, 16, June 6, and June 20, 10a and 2p. Preschoolers are invited to a wildlife-focused story time.

Migration Celebration —

May 14, 2-5p. Did you know that monarch butterflies can travel between 50-100 miles a day on their migration? Celebrate these and other amazing migrants at our new, family



*Visitors walk by the Refuge Friends restoration site
Photo USFWS/Irwin*

friendly refuge event! Come out to see live birds and participate in activities like Migration Olympics and Bird Karaoke.

Volunteer Appreciation 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.

Monarch monitoring — *Training May 20, 1-3p. Monitoring times flexible/TBA.* Monarch butterfly populations have declined drastically. Participate in citizen science by monitoring a milkweed patch on the Refuge for monarch eggs, caterpillars, and adults.

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

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

Other Opportunities to Help

Please bring us your owl pellets! We use them in our environmental education programs.

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Maintenance Crew/Weed Warriors —

Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays, 7:45a-noon.

Help with weed control and various outdoor projects around the refuge.

Summer Day Camp Helpers — *July 25-29*

and Aug 8-12, 9a-12:30p. Training time TBA. Help

Mia run one of our summer day camps for kids! Volunteers needed to help lead activities and chaperone students

Outreach Opportunities

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

Nampa Public Library Reading Kickoff —

June 4, 9a-1p.

Youth Outdoor Skills Day — *June 4, 9:30a-*

3p. Nampa Sportsman's Warehouse.

Nampa Farmers Market — *May-Oct, 9a-1p.*