

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

May 2015



USFWS/
Mackenzie
Tietjen

Heron rookery on the Snake River Islands Unit

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities Volunteers are especially needed for the following projects: **Summer Day Camp Helpers** (help run camps for kids), **Refuge Ambassadors** (summer outreach to Refuge visitors) and **BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day** (help with either festival). See next page for more information.

Cheers!

Thanks to over 100 volunteers that participated in Earth Day Work Day! They collected 10 bags of litter, dug up thousands of white bryony roots, blocked eight social trails to keep areas closed for wildlife, transplanted sagebrush, weeded, and trimmed the wildlife-friendly landscaping. Also thanks to West Valley Medical Center, Nampa Christian Middle School, and US Bank who brought groups on other days to dig up white bryony and did a great job!



Volunteers from CWI and Foothills Learning Center removing weeds on Earth Day Work Day- Photo courtesy Brian Lawless

What's New?

After what seems like forever, the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan is now complete and final! The Lake Lowell boating season has started and new boating and other use regulations are available in the new Refuge brochure.

Around the water cooler...

Tammy B. will be finishing up her time here as a residential volunteer early this month. She has done a great job helping us improve field trips and other aspects of the Visitor Services Program, leading field trips, writing articles, doing biological surveys, and much more. Thanks Tammy. 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 for more info about memberships or getting involved.



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

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

Wednesday May 6th, 6PM Join us for the *last* lecture of the season to learn about Idaho's hummingbird species that mesmerize with their showy colors and amazing acrobatics. Biologist Carl Rudeen will discuss the unique aspects of



*Refuge Ambassador Table
Photo courtesy Courtney Koehler*

these jewels of the sky. Note that the lecture starts early this time. Arrive at 6pm for a discussion of hummingbird banding and banding demonstration.

**Idaho Fish and Game
Fishing Trailer**

Saturday May 30th, 10AM-2PM
Interested in fishing but don't have the proper equipment or know-how? Borrow a pole and get a lesson!

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

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 visitors in conversation and hands-on activities about outdoor recreation and wildlife monitoring. Training provided.

Summer Day Camp Helpers — Biodiversity Basics June 1st-June 5th Desert Detectives July 20th-24th 9am-12:30pm Help Kacey run one of our summer day camps for kids! Volunteers needed to help lead activities and chaperone students.

BioBlitz & Kids' Fishing Day— June 12th & 13th
We are excited and gearing up for these events! We need your help to be an observation adventure guide, staff various activities like the bug tent and crafts, shuttle visitors, help youngsters with fishing, and more. Help us show the community how special Deer Flat NWR is, and enjoy the fun events as well! Request a registration form now because the **deadline to register is June 1st**

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Reading at the Refuge — 1st & 3rd Mondays (especially June) 10:00am and 2:00pm— We still need volunteers to co-lead storytelling and crafting with pre-schoolers. Stories and crafts provided or you can pick your own.

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.

Community Outreach Leader — Various times and dates mostly evenings and weekends The Refuge is invited to exhibit and provide activities at many community events. Unfortunately, we miss some of these opportunities because we don't have enough staff, time, or energy to attend. Help us build partnerships with the community while checking out these fun events for yourself! We are seeking responsible, dedicated volunteers willing to be trained on outreach and take the lead on gathering materials, working with other volunteers to facilitate activities, and setting up and taking down Refuge booths. Training session May 27th at 10am (a different date/time can be arranged) **Deadline to register: May 22nd**

Idaho Fish and Game Fishing Trailer — May 30th 10am-2pm Help staff the trailer at Gotts Point. Fishing experience required!

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 with any monarch sightings. Pictures and tag readings preferred.

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 (208)-467-9278