

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo copyright Louis Ruth 2016

October 2016

Another beautiful fall day at Lake Lowell.

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

**Visitor Counting** (*mornings throughout month*)—Long-term commitment to count visitors at access points.

**Visitor Center Hosts** (*Saturdays or weekdays*)—Greet and provide information to visitors.

**Creepy Critter Encounters** (*Oct 29*)—Helpers needed for our fun Refuge Halloween event.

*See next page for more information.*

### What's New?

Monarch Monitors from CWI are collecting caterpillars, rearing them, and tagging the adult butterflies. Collecting will continue weekends until all the adults have migrated south. Most of the caterpillars are feeding on milkweed leaves in terrariums at CWI, but one is at the Refuge, so plan a visit soon! Once the butterfly emerges from its chrysalis (cocoon), the adults will come back to the refuge for a wing tag and to be released. Check out our Facebook page for information on release dates!

### Cheers!

The refuge looks fantastic thanks to the hard work of the 50+ Liberty Charter School students on 9/23 and the 70+ volunteers on National Public Lands Day (9/24)!

### Around the Water Cooler

Welcome to Melissa Murillo, the new Volunteer Coordinator courtesy PCEI AmeriCorps. She is excited to return to Idaho to work with local



Our new Volunteer Coordinator!  
Photo USFWS/Mia Callahan

volunteers, become involved in conservation projects, and take a break from the nomadic lifestyle of a field technician.

Sadly a dedicated volunteer will be leaving us this month. Richard is moving to California to be closer to family. We appreciated his staffing the front desk on Tuesdays/Thursdays. We'll miss him around the office. Thanks for all your help!

### Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports Refuge activities. **Join them at 1 PM on Oct 8 for a potluck to celebrate their 10th anniversary!**

Friends memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible.

For more information or to RSVP, email: [friendsofdfwr@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdfwr@gmail.com)



## **Upcoming Events**

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

### **Reading at the Refuge—Oct 3 & 17, 10a and 2p.**

Preschoolers are invited to a wildlife-focused story time.

### **SIBA General Meeting—**

Oct 13, 6pm. Join the Birders Association for a presentation by Bob Christensen on “Tour of Okenfenokee, the Great Black Water Swamp”.



*A monarch caterpillar munching on milkweed.  
(Photo courtesy Jenn Dillard)*

### **Creepy Critter Encounters—**

Oct 29, 3-6p. Kids come in costume to learn about creepy critters at this Halloween event for kids. Also see volunteer opportunity below.

### **Volunteer Recognition**

#### **Luncheon—Nov 5 from noon-2p.**

Have you volunteered since October 2015? Then plan to join us and be recognized for your work to make the refuge a better place.

## **Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!**

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

**Visitor Counting Surveyor—2 hours in the morning (8a -noon), 4-6 times per month (4 weekdays and maybe 2 weekends).** Help count Refuge visitors by driving around the Refuge in a Refuge vehicle to count the vehicles at each Refuge access point and fill brochure boxes. Data used to estimate total Refuge visitation.

**Visitor Center Host—Saturdays 10-4pm (or weekdays).** Greet visitors, answer the telephone, and help with various office projects. Training provided. Saturday hosts must be willing to undergo a background check and commit to a year of service—whether once a month or once a quarter.

**Creepy Critter Encounters—Oct 29, 1:30-6:30p.** Many volunteers are needed for this Halloween event for kids. Staff the welcome table, craft room, and wildlife-related activity stations. Please fill out a volunteer sign-up form or contact us with any questions.  
*Deadline to pre-register: Oct 21st.*

## **Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Vehicle Maintenance—*Flexible, monthly.***

Check refuge vehicles to make sure they are well-maintained. *No need to be a car expert!*

**Reading at the Refuge — 1st & 3rd Mondays (10 am and 2 pm)** Help connect youngsters to nature. We are seeking volunteers to select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts, and lead the event.

### **Field Trip Volunteer—Nov 4th, 12:30-2:30pm.**

Be a part of our environmental education program by helping teach 5th graders from May Roberts Elementary. Volunteers will help run ecological activity stations. Training provided. Contact Mia (mia\_callahan@fws.gov) for more information.

**Idaho Master Naturalist Program—**Do you love learning about the natural world? Please contact us if you would be interested in being a part of a new local chapter!