

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo courtesy Linda Israel

September 2015

Coyote on the south side of the Lake Lowell Unit

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities Volunteers especially needed for: **Posting Refuge Islands** (boat trip to the islands unit to post and move signs), **National Public Lands Day** (projects include restoration prep, wildlife-friendly landscaping maintenance, and litter pick-up), and **Creepy Critter Encounters** (event volunteers needed). See next page for more information.

Cheers!

Thanks to everyone for reporting their hours. Since October 1, 2014, 647 volunteers have contributed almost 10,000 hours of service to the Refuge. Wow!

Whether you served for one hour or hundreds, your service allows us to accomplish wildlife monitoring, habitat improvement, event, environmental education, visitor services, maintenance and many other projects that would otherwise be impossible.

Many thanks to all Refuge volunteers!!!



August Volunteer Appreciation Boat Trip for volunteers who served more than 25 hours in the past year (Photo USFWS/Mackenzie Tietjen)

What's New?

The start of September means the start of hunting. For the hunters among you, have a safe hunt. For other Refuge visitors, please take appropriate precautions in the East and South Side Recreation Areas.

Around the water cooler...

Volunteer coordinator Mackenzie Tietjen has completed her term and headed off to study ticks in Texas for her Master's degree. Best of luck and thanks for all your great work, Mackenzie!

If you volunteered during the last year, mark your calendar for the annual volunteer recognition luncheon which will be held noon -2pm on Saturday, November 7th. More info to follow.

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 about memberships or getting involved.



Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center

National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 26th 9am-

noon Seeking volunteers

(see below) to help celebrate National Public Lands Day.

Volunteers earn a fee-free pass good for one year for a day of free entry to National Public Lands.



*Volunteers at National Public Lands Day 2014
Photo USFWS/Heidi Zschach*

Reading at the Refuge

Monday Sept 21, Oct 5 & 19 at 10am and repeating at 2pm

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

Creepy Critter Encounters

Saturday, October 24th 3-6PM

Kids come in costume to learn about creepy critters at this Halloween event for kids. Also see volunteer opportunity below.

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

Posting Refuge Islands — September 9th and 16th, 7:30-4 Take a boat trip to the islands to post nesting closure signs. Must be physically fit (to jump on and off boats, scramble through dense vegetation, and dig out and move sign posts). Must pre-register.

National Public Lands Day— September 26th 9am-noon Celebrate National Public Lands Day by volunteering to improve the Refuge for wildlife and people. Projects will likely include clearing vegetation for a restoration project at the Visitor Center, prepping VC landscaping for the winter, and picking up litter. Participants earn a fee-free pass to National Public Lands, but must pre-register. Event leaders are also needed.

Creepy Critter Encounters — October 24th 1:30-6:30 pm Many volunteers needed for this Halloween event for kids. Kids (and volunteers, if you'd like) come in costume to learn about creepy critters. Volunteers staff welcome table, craft room, and wildlife-related stations along the nature trail. Deadline to pre-register: October 16th.

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Milkweed Seed Collecting — Mid-September

Help the monarch conservation effort by collecting milkweed seeds to be planted at other locations on this Refuge or at other National Wildlife Refuges.

Monthly Vehicle Check — Mid-September Help maintain Refuge vehicles by checking fluids, vacuuming, and dusting once per month. Training provided but basic understanding of car maintenance preferred.

Reading at the Refuge — 1st & 3rd Mondays (10am and 2 pm), but particularly needed on 10/5/15 Help connect youngsters to wildlife and nature. We are seeking volunteers to select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts, and lead the event.

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.

Monarch Monitoring — Ongoing. Training scheduled upon request. Become a citizen scientist and join the monarch conservation effort. Monarch numbers have greatly declined and a nationwide effort is needed to better understand their population and better conserve these creatures. Contact us if you are interested in monitoring a milkweed patch on the Refuge. Also, keep an eye out for monarchs and contact deerflat@fws.gov with any monarch sightings. Pictures and tag readings preferred.

Bird Feeding— Training 1 PM on October 17th

The Friends of Deer Flat is seeking help feeding wintering birds from November through May. If you would like more information or would like to attend the training, email Rachel and Dave at deerflat@fws.gov.

To sign up or find out more contact Susan Kain, Visitor Services Manager at deerflat@fws.gov (208)-467-9278