

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

Happy Holiday Edition!

Dec. 2014



What's New?

On November 19th, 2014 our very own Kathi Stopher was awarded the National U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services 2014 Sense of Wonder award! What an honor for all of us to be able to work and be part of this wonderful award. And quoting Kathi, "From the Friends Group, who with the original vision created the foundation for serving the community and schools, to the Partners who sustain the program with consistency and continuity, to the Managers who believe that environmental education is an effective tool in the manager's toolbox, to the Park Rangers who contribute their creative energies, and to the Interns and Volunteers who generously give of their time and talents, the award truly goes to you all". Truly what a neat time it is for environmental education, the future is bright and the options are endless!



Photo by J. Zaker

We will also be welcoming Andrea Johnson back on January 12th as the Park Ranger/Generalist. Last summer she was in charge of the YCC.

Thumbs-Up!

A big shout out to volunteers June, Gil, Mindy, and Nicaela for helping us with our Turkey Days open house! It was a great success and we had lot's of fun making animal tracks, out of plaster, and creating pinecone turkeys! We would also like to thank our volunteer Marilyn for letting us borrow the movie, "My Life as a Turkey", it was a big hit!

Refuge Spotlight

Many of you know Gil Paquet as a long-time front desk volunteer, but did you also know he volunteers his time and home to help others by training future service dogs? Gil has been training dogs since his days as a Military Policeman for the Army and for the past couple months Gil has been working with Alana. She is a black Labrador puppy who will one day be a service dog. Maybe you have seen them at the Front Desk? Alana came to Gil through Canine companions for Independence (CCI). CCI is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. Gil and Alana will be together for 18 months and then she will go back to CCI for specific assistance training. Matches between service dogs and people result in a life full of increased independence and loving companionship.



Great Job Gil and Alana!



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

- December 18 Volunteer Holiday Party & Movie (Thursday @ 5:00 p.m.)
- January 10th Owl Day (Saturday)
- January 28th Volunteer Recognition Day (Wednesday @ 11:30 a.m.)
- February 14th Eagle Day (Saturday)
- If you would like to volunteer at any of these events please let Jen Christopherson know via phone 435-734-6457 or by email: jwolf@bikerider.com



* The Volunteer Recognition day will consist Staff serving a luncheon to our wonderful volunteers with an award ceremony to follow. A film about Aldo Leopold, conservation hero, will be shown in the auditorium to commemorate the Wilderness Act's 50th.

Mark Your Calendars!

December 24th: CLOSED!

December 25th: CLOSED!

December 26th: CLOSED!

January 1st: New Year's Day! CLOSED!



Creature Feature: Tundra Swan

Our creature feature for this month is the beautiful Tundra Swan.

A couple of neat facts about these birds are as follows:

- Swans are the largest members of the waterfowl family and also includes ducks and geese
- A male swan is called a cob, and a female swan is called a pen
- Swans begin breeding between the ages of 3-4
- Swans can fly as fast as 60 miles per hour!
- A baby swan is called a cygnet
- Cygnophobia or kinknophobia is the fear of swans
- A group of wild swans is known as a herd
- There are six different species of swans
- The swan has over 25,000 feathers on its body



Christmas Laughs and Cheer

1. What do you call a cat sitting on the beach on Christmas eve?
2. If Frosty the Snowman married a vampire, what would they name their child?
3. Which reindeer likes to clean?

*****Tip of the day: Never catch snowflakes on your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter!**

