

Clean AND Learn Days

Clean Up while you Learn about the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Association hosted our first Clean and Learn Day on Saturday, April 7. Although it reached freezing temperatures earlier that morning, we still had nearly 20 volunteers who showed up to help pick up litter around the south end of White Springs Dike. A large heap of garbage was collected including bottles, cans, angling gear, an old tire, and part of a gutter (not sure where that came from...). Overall, the area was much cleaner for local wildlife and for future recreational opportunities. A big thanks to all of you who came to help us! After the clean up, a handful of people ventured out on their mountain bikes to explore the Refuge, while the rest of us hopped in a warm van and enjoyed a tour of the White Springs Dike area with Supervisory Park Ranger Teresa Adams. Along the way, we learned more about the Refuge's management strategies for wildlife, and we had the chance to see wildflowers starting to bloom and a pair of wood ducks swimming in a stream.

The Friends Association will host several more Clean and Learn Days throughout 2007 to clean up areas around the Refuge while promoting multi-use opportunities on the Refuge. Please join us on Saturday morning, June 2, for our Clean and Learn Day at Arrowhead Landing in Mooresville. The activity will be Nature Photography, and we'll have two start times: 5:00 a.m. for photographers who want to photograph sunrise, and 7:00 a.m. for photographers who want to take photos in early morning light. Wildlife will be more active in the early morning, so hopefully we'll have opportunities to photograph the local wildlife as well. After the photography sessions, we will have a Clean Up around the shoreline and parking area. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided. We plan to finish cleaning up by 10 a.m.

Clean and Learn Days will tentatively be held on the first Saturday of every other month. All events will include an hour clean up project to pick up litter and a guided activity such as bird watching, mountain biking, outdoor photography, hiking, and more. These events will provide a wonderful opportunity for people to donate their time help keep our Refuge clean while also learning about Wheeler's outdoor recreational opportunities, wildlife, and beautiful scenery. All events will be child-friendly, and families are encouraged to participate. For a full calendar of events see below.

If you are interested in participating in one of the Clean and Learn Days, please visit the Wheeler NWR website at <http://www.fws.gov/wheeler/> for more details and/or contact Teresa Adams at the Refuge at (256) 350-6639.

Clean AND Learn Days Calendar of Events

Date*	Location	Activity
June 2 @ 5 am & 7 am	Arrowhead Landing	Outdoor Photography
August 11** @ 6 pm	Cave Springs Cave (Mussel Camp Road)	Gray Bat Observation
October 6 @ 9 am	Beaverdam Boardwalk	Nature Hike
December 1 @ 9 am	Blackwell Swamp (Jolly B Road)	Wildlife Identification

**Note: Exact Dates and Times will be set closer to the dates.*

***Note: The August activity will be held on the second Saturday of the month.*