

The Grebe

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 19

FALL 2016

Join us for the
Friends' 10th
Anniversary
Celebration
- Page 2

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

Our mission is to promote,
protect and provide resources to
preserve and enhance

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

for the enjoyment of present
and future generations.



Friends of Deer Flat Board of Directors

Bob Christensen, President
Bob Ruesink, Vice-President
Tricia Matthews, Treasurer
Mary Jo Schumacher, Secretary
Kris Horton, Member
Kathleen McCarter, Member

Contact Information

13751 Upper Embankment Rd
Nampa ID 83686

Email: friendsofdfwr@gmail.com
[www.facebook.com/
FriendsofDeerFlat](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofDeerFlat)

Bob Faller
Newsletter Editor

President's Message –

To commemorate the 10th Anniversary this year of the "Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge," I could provide a long list of our accomplishments. Instead, in the box below are parts of a memo sent us by Lee McGlinsky, our first president, which documents the early beginnings of our Friends' group.

After many people had come to Susan Kain, Refuge Outreach Director, and Elaine Johnson, Refuge Manager, asking for ways to form a citizen's group to support the Refuge, Susan contacted interested people to meet at the Refuge to discuss what to do, December 12, 2005.

An enthusiastic bunch of 18 people came together, representing long-time Idaho residents and newcomers, with a variety of different backgrounds and political views; but we all agreed on the importance of preserving the Refuge. Susan helped us to set up committees to write by-laws and a mission statement.

At the next general meeting (January 3rd, 2006), we discussed and approved the bylaws and mission statement. We talked about goals and projects, elected officers, and established committees to carry out the wishes of the group. (Later) in a member survey, we learned that most people joining the Friends wanted to protect the Refuge against encroaching development and to learn more about the Refuge and the animals living on the Refuge.

At our monthly member meetings we had educational speakers, panel discussions and slide presentations. Following the meetings we had an Open Round Table discussion for anyone who wanted to discuss issues and ideas.

In that first 11 months, Friends members participated in the spring goose nest and egg count on the Refuge islands; had booths at community events with information about the Refuge; and helped with public educational events at the Refuge. We formed an Action Alert Committee to research proposed housing developments that posed a threat to the Refuge's function and to testify at hearings before the Canyon County Development Services Department and the County Commissioners.

(On June 12, 2006, we received from the IRS our official designation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, thanks to the efforts of Kris Horton.)

By July, 2006, Denise Hughes had published our first by-monthly newsletter, The Grebe; and Jon Minkoff and Al McGlinsky had written a proposal for a startup grant (from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation) for \$5,000.

In the spring of 2006, we had 9 paid members. By the fall of 2006 we had 53 members. Of course, we had a core group of hard working volunteers... but we never would have accomplished all this without the whole membership's active participation and the help of the Refuge staff.

President's Message, Continued Page 2

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)



To learn more about the Friends' long list of accomplishments and identification of those who helped give Friends a great kick start, I invite you to attend our final 10th Anniversary Celebration (see information below).

The celebration at the Deer Flat Refuge Visitor Center on Saturday, October 8, 2016, is held in conjunction with National Wildlife Refuge Week.

I look forward to seeing you at our celebration. You will have the opportunity to learn much more about the Friends.

Bob Christensen, Friends Board President

**National Wildlife
Refuge Week**

**JOIN THE CELEBRATION
Saturday ~ October 8th
1 to 3pm - Deer Flat Refuge**

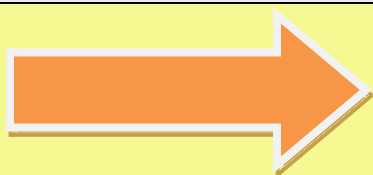
The Friends of Deer Flat will be sponsoring a potluck luncheon on Saturday, October 8th from 1-3 p.m. at the Refuge Visitors Center to commemorate National Wildlife Refuge Week.

We will have "fun baskets" for *door prizes*. We will also honor our Friends *charter members* and celebrate ten years of our activities and accomplishments. All Friends members, former members, and Refuge volunteers are invited! We will provide the main dish, dessert, and beverages; and ask that guests bring a side dish or salad. Our current president, Bob Christensen, will present an up-close-and-personal program—starring the bald eagles of Lake Lowell.

We encourage all to attend. Join us for food and fun!!!

RSVP to Kathleen McCarter (859-3762 or Kmac.rider@gmail.com)

10th Anniversary



Call for Nominations of 2017 Officers and Board Members

We are soliciting your help in identifying yourself or other individuals as candidates for officers and board members for the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge for calendar year 2017. If you or someone you know are interested in helping lead the Friends of Deer Flat to be an even greater organization, please contact Vice President Bob Ruesink (866-0578 or email rgjarue@msn.com). Nominations are due by November 1, 2016.

Current 2016 Officers and Board: Bob Christensen, President; Bob Ruesink, Vice President; Tricia Matthews, Treasurer; Mary Jo Shumacher, Secretary; Kathleen McCarter, Board Member; Kris Horton, Board Member

SPOTLIGHT ON THE “FLYING M COFFEEGARAGE”

In this issue of the Friends Newsletter, we want to spotlight

Lisa Myers and the Flying M CoffeeGarage

Lisa is a valuable benefactor for many of our events! To learn more about Lisa, we asked her a few questions about how she came to Nampa, got involved in the coffee business, and how she supports her interest in nature and wildlife in her community.



We sincerely thank Lisa for her continued support.

Lisa, how long have you owned the Flying M in Nampa?

We opened Flying M CoffeeGarage in 2006 and had our 10-year celebration party this past May. My husband and I are also the original owners of the Boise Flying M Coffeehouse (opened in 1992), which we sold to our manager in 2011.

Where did you originally come from?

I was raised in Nampa (moved here when I was 2). I left to attend the University of Washington in Seattle, where Kevin and I met. When we started our family, we decided to move here for a slower pace than Seattle and to be near family. We then decided to open up a coffee shop!

Have you always been interested in nature and wildlife?

Growing up in Idaho would give anyone a real appreciation of our open spaces, beautiful landscapes, and precious wildlife.

Your support has been invaluable to the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. How did you develop your interest in wildlife conservation?

Flying M has always supported and valued groups that work hard to preserve our beautiful Idaho for all to enjoy—now and for future generations.

What do you like best about owning a coffee shop/bakery/restaurant?

I love that Flying M has been able to create a community through our staff, our customers, and our neighbors. The support of this community allows us to give back.

Update on Native Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Project



A co-sponsored “Friends of Deer Flat” and “Deer Flat NWR” restoration project adjacent to the visitor center is underway.

This spring and summer, refuge staff treated and mowed the three-acre site to keep cheat grass and weeds at bay.

We will plant native bunch grasses on the site in October.

In late October or early November, seeds from the native shrubs will be collected and delivered to Lucky Peak Nursery for growing into seedlings. These seedlings will later be planted in the fall of 2017.

Please contact the refuge volunteer coordinator at 208-467-9278 if you would like to help with the seed collection project.

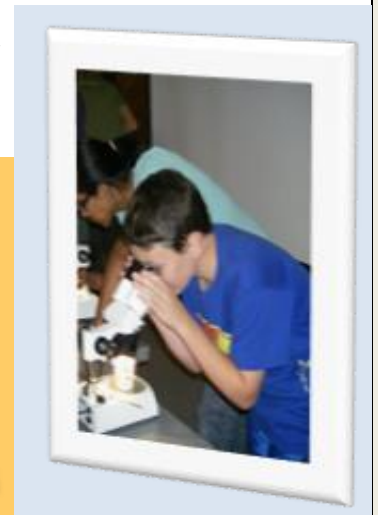


Friends Busing Scholarships

Friends received two grants in 2016 to help local schools send students on the *Discover Wildlife Journeys* field trips at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Both the Southwestern Idaho Legacy Organization (SILO) and the National Park Foundation (NPF) provided \$1,700 grants toward our busing scholarship fund. Thank you SILO and NPF!

This spring, Friends awarded about \$2,000 to cover busing scholarships for seven schools in order to bring 615 students in 14 different buses to the refuge. An additional two schools have been awarded busing scholarships, thus far, for fall field trips involving 200 students and four buses.

This has been a very worthwhile program. Over the last five years, busing scholarships provided by the Friends through local grants have benefitted thousands of local students at the 4th and 5th grade levels—providing them an outdoor classroom opportunity to touch, feel, smell, hear, and almost taste nature at Deer Flat NWR.



Della Johnson Memorial Trail Dedicated



The **Della Johnson Memorial Trail** is an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant concrete path that was constructed by the Friends and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.

This trail connects the Centennial Trail to the wildlife viewing blind on the shores of Lake Lowell.

A generous endowment from Della Johnson along with refuge funds helped pay for the trail. In addition, Della's endowment gift purchased a trail marker and birding interpretive panel, which were recently placed by the Friends along the trail.



The "Della M. Johnson Memorial Trail" was officially dedicated during the Refuge's Migration Celebration in May 2016.

Friends Website -- friendsofdeerflat.org

Be sure to check out the Friends website at "friendsofdeerflat.org". You can find the latest on:



- + bald eagle nesting success for this year,
- + Friends restoration project,
- + Identification of current board members,
- + past newsletters,
- + pollinator garden,
- + engraved memorial bricks (available for purchase) placed in the pollinator garden in your or someone else's name,
- + nature store hours at the Visitor Center
- + Friends Celebration on October 8, 2016

GREBE'S NEST NATURE STORE

Proceeds from the Grebe's Nest Nature Store are used to help fund conservation projects and public outreach events at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



For questions or more information, contact Bob Faller 467-6676

Hours of Operation

Mondays

1 pm to 4 pm

Tuesdays

8 am to 4 pm

Wednesdays

9 am to Noon

Thursdays

8 am to 4 pm

Fridays

10 am to 2 pm

Saturdays (if staffed)

10 am to 4 pm



Yes!

I want to be a member.

Just copy this page, cut on dotted line above, complete the requested information below, then mail it along with your annual dues to:

**Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa ID 83686**

Name(s)

Address

City/State /Zip

Phone

Email

**Annual Membership Levels
(Please mark one)**

_____ Owl (senior or student)	\$ 10.00
_____ Deer (individual)	\$ 15.00
_____ Fox (family)	\$ 25.00
_____ Osprey	\$ 50.00
_____ Eagle	\$ 100.00
_____ Goldeneye	\$ 500.00

**Join
the
Friends
of
Deer
Flat
Refuge**

Yes!

I want to be involved.

Please mark all areas of interest and ways you'd like to participate.

- Habitat Enhancement
- Staffing the Bookstore
- Organizing events
- Litter lifts
- Weed eradication
- Project Management
- Photographic Documentation of Events and Activities
- Historian
- Newsletter
- Publicity / Public Relations
- Grant Writing
- Fundraising
- Lobbying and Advocacy
- Board of Directors
- Advisory on specific policies, protocols and processes.
- Other (please specify)

Engraved Brick Fundraiser for Refuge Pollinator Garden

To provide for many refuge activities, Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge sell engraved bricks that are placed in the Refuge Pollinator Garden. For \$35 each or 2 for \$60, your brick(s) will be a permanent part of the Pollinator Garden located just behind the Refuge Visitor Center.

***For more information, please contact
Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (c/o Bricks)
13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686***