



The Grebe

Mission of The Friends of Deer Flat:

The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

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Spring 2014

Notes From the President



The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge have accomplished a lot during the first five months of 2014:

The Refuge was showcased at some events in our community: Kids First Fish Day, Nampa High School Water Day, and Community Day at the Idaho Civic Center.

We also joined Idaho Gives and on May 1st received over \$450 in donations.

On February 22nd the Friends hosted the 105th Anniversary Celebration for the Refuge. Susan Kain and Stan Culling gave talks on what it is like to work at Deer Flat Refuge. We had crafts and face painting for children, thanks to the help of so many volunteers. Coffee and pastries were provided by the Flying M Coffee Garage. At the event we encouraged children and adults to write down their favorite/fun thing to do at the Refuge. Our goal is to list "105 Favorite and Fun Things To Enjoy At the Refuge".

The Friends established a Facebook page; you can "like" us on Facebook.com/Friends of Deer Flat and post your favorite things to do at the Refuge and help us reach our goal of "105 Favorite Things" by our October event, which will celebrate the 105 years of the National Refuge system.

On April 19th, a Refuge Earth Day Work Day drew over 200 volunteers to pick up trash and get rid of weeds. The Friends served pizza to thank all the very tired participants.

Friends of Deer Flat have accomplished much so far this year and have many more projects to complete before the year (2014) is done.

What Is New?

- **New National Friends Policy** - The Friend's Board of Directors continues to work on updating our Bylaws while we are learning about the new national Friends policy. *(continued on next page)*

(Continued, Notes from the President, Noreen Tripp)

The new policy will assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge employees to achieve their mission more efficiently and effectively through partnerships with nonprofit Friends organizations.

The new policy will mean some changes in how the Friends work with our Refuge staff.

The Board is in the process of reviewing and learning about the policy. As the Board learns more about it, they will continue to work with the Refuge staff to utilize the new Friends Partnership Agreement and include new requirements into our Bylaws. If you are interested in learning more about the new Friends policy go to www.fws.gov/refuges/friends/friendspolicy.html.

• **Financial Gift** –Early this year, the Friends received a very generous gift, of \$5000 from a wonderful lady, Della Johnson. Della was very active in the community, a strong believer of the importance of conservation and protecting our wild places. She felt education is an important part of reaching people and the protection of our open places, such as Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. We invite you to submit some ideas on projects to utilize this meaningful financial gift that will help us reach the goal of honoring Della Johnson and fulfilling the Friends' purpose "to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations".

• **Friends Awarded Two Grants** - One grant from National Environmental Education Foundation is for updating our brochure, which we are looking forward to handing out during our upcoming events.

The other grant from Idaho Horticulture Society will be used improve the Pollinator Garden. With the help of our Master Garden, Tricia Mathews, we have done a lot of work on our garden. The last week end of April, several Boy Scouts assisted in laying the foundation for the patio. The placement of dedication bricks has begun and a hummingbird feeding program is planned for the summer months.

Mark Your Calendar:

• **June 14 BioBlitz** - The Friends will have a booth and we will be hosting the food truck again this year. We need volunteers to help in setting up our booth at 9am and taking the booth down at 4pm. We also need help during the BioBlitz from 10am to 4pm.

• **June 19 Volunteer Social** - The Friends are hosting the Volunteer Social. We invite all the volunteers and Friends to enjoy an evening at the Refuge, starting at 5:30pm.

• **September 27 Winter Bird-feeding Class** - October begins the winter bird-feeding program

• **October 11 National Wildlife Refuge Week Celebration, including Big Sit bird count.**

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• **November Voting For The 2015 Board.** I encourage you to learn more about the Board and how to become a Board member. This is an important part of keeping the Friends active and meeting our mission of supporting the Deer Flat Refuge. The Board meets the first Friday of the month. If you have an interest in learning more about what our Board does you are welcome to attend a Board meeting as it relates to the business of helping the Refuge meet its goals.

• **December 12 Annual Members Meeting** - 5:30pm at the Refuge Visitor Center. We will celebrate all that the Friends have done in 2014, meet our new board members and get ready for 2015. I hope you will put this day on your calendar and join us for this important event. We will be posting more about the Annual Members Meeting in the coming months.

IF you are interested in helping with any of these upcoming events, helping with our ongoing projects or wish to attend a board meeting, please contact me, Noreen Tripp at tono-tripp@cablone.net.

Thank you for your continued support.
Noreen Tripp, FDFWR President



Refuge photo courtesy of Robert Allen

An Evening of Celebration



Thursday, June 19, 2014
 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
**Deer Flat National Wildlife
 Refuge Visitor Center**
 13751 Upper Embankment Rd, Nampa
 For more information, call (208) 249-8162

Celebrations

Celebrating **YOU** and **OUR REFUGE:**
 Refreshments, walks, free raffle, speakers, and demonstrations.
 Garden Party:
 Learn about the Pollinator Grant and our phased plans for the new garden on the refuge grounds.

Information

Programs and Events
 Visitor Center Hosts
 Earth Day Clean-up
 BioBlitz
 Creepy Critters Family Halloween
 Nat'l Wildlife Week
 Birdfeeding
 Pollinator Garden
 Reading Programs
 Newsletters
 Board Membership

Fundraising

Friends' Support!
 Osprey Webcam
 Educational Outreach
 Family Activities at the Refuge
 Grebe's Nest Nature Bookstore
 Refuge Equipment
 Bus Scholarship
 "Idaho Gives"
 We Appreciate You!

2014 Friends Projects/Events/Activities

If you would like to be involved
in any of the following Friends
Projects, Events or Activities

Contact Noreen Tripp @
tonotripp@cablone.net
or phone: 208-249-8162

Projects:

Bus Scholarship
"The Grebe" Newsletter
Osprey-Cam,
Pollinator Garden
Iowa Curves Litter Pick-up
Fishing Line Receptacles.



Friends Events:

June 19 th	Volunteer Social
October 11 th	National Wildlife Refuge Week
December 12 th	Annual Members' Meeting

Refuge Events with Friends Support:

June 14 th	BioBlitz
October 25 th	Creepy Critters



Refuge photos courtesy of Robert Allen

A Big Thank You to Flying M Coffee Garage!!

Board members of the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge (DFWR), Pres. Noreen Tripp, Vice President Lyndell Jackson, Secretary Kathleen McCarter, and new Board Member, Fred Christensen present Lisa and Kevin Meyers, owners of Flying M Coffee Garage in Nampa, with vests which include the Friends logo as gifts to thank them for their generous support over the years to the Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. The Flying M has donated their wonderful pastries and coffee to numerous events that have taken place at the Deer Flat Refuge and have been sponsored by the Friends of the DFWR.

The Refuge staff structure these events towards families in the surrounding communities and in particular provide young people the opportunity of hands-on activities and visual excitement in the presence of the numerous birds and other species that live and fly at the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge and swim in Lake Lowell. The Friends of DFWR is a non-profit organization and exists to support the Refuge and promote its educational programs. The Refuge provides a wonderfully serene haven for its existing and migrating bird population, as well as being a serene haven and recreational destination for human visitors.

Janice Engle, US Fish and Wildlife Service, is the official photographer for the Friends' group. Genevieve Johannsen, Treasurer and Grebe's Nest Bookstore Manager, was unable to attend. Also, not pictured, is Robert Ruesink, another new board Member.



Pictured - Back Row - Kevin Meyers, Noreen Tripp, Lisa Myers
Front Row - Lyndell Jackson, Kathleen McCarter, Fred Christensen

Photo by Janice Engle

BioBlitz Festival 2014

What: 24-hour intensive survey and celebration of biological diversity. Join us for Idaho's only BioBlitz...and one of the refuge's most popular events. While at the BioBlitz Festival, you might want to also attend Kids' Fishing Day at Gotts Point.

Where: Throughout the refuge. BioBlitz central will be at the Visitor Center. GPS and online directions are not correct--find correct directions here.

When: June 13-14

Surveys: Friday and Saturday throughout the refuge. See schedule below to participate.

Festival: 10 AM - 3 PM Saturday

Event schedule: Activities marked with an asterisk require pre-registration at deerflat@fws.gov or 467-9278

Friday, June 13th

6:00 AM Bird Surveys*

10:00 AM Aquatic invertebrate sampling*

8:00 PM Small mammal trapping demonstration (setting traps)*

9:00 PM Jerusalem cricket survey*

10:00 PM Deer spotlighting survey*

Saturday June 14th

7:00 AM Small mammal trapping demonstration (checking traps)*

10:00 AM BioBlitz Festival and Kids' Fishing Day events begin

10:00 AM Boat trip to net fish*

10:00 AM Introduction to birding walk

10:30 AM-2:30 PM Insect-collecting expeditions (every hour on the half hour)

11:00 AM Boat trip to net fish*

11:00 AM Introduction to birding walk

12:00 PM Boat trip to net fish*

2:00 PM Introduction to nature photography walk

Volunteer opportunities still available! To sign up as a refuge volunteer, please contact Susan or Kacey (deerflat@fws.gov or 467-9278).

Earth Day Work Day 2014



On April 19th a record breaking number of volunteers came to the Refuge for Earth Day Work Day to help make improvements for wildlife and visitors. Over 200 volunteers collected 40 bags of litter, removed over 100 poison hemlock plants and many thousands of white bryony vines. They helped improve wildlife-friendly landscaping around the Visitor Center and worked on the new pollinator garden spur of the Nature Trail. Volunteers came from local garden clubs, colleges, high schools, local businesses and charity groups. There were many families and individuals too. It was very heart warming to witness so

many members of the community really wanting to be involved with the Refuge!

The volunteers were so very appreciative of the morning granola bars and oranges provided by The Friends of Deer Flat. After all their hard work they were even more appreciative of the delicious pizza luncheon provided by to !! It was a lot of hard work feeding all of them, but many happy and satisfied faces could be seen.

The Refuge staff (and wildlife!) also truly appreciate the Friends contributions that help make this event so much more rewarding!



All photos provided by Jim Soukup

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) Grant Update

In early February 2014, the Friends of Deer Flat were awarded a NEEF grant to develop a website and to redesign the Friends brochure.

Are you willing to share your photos and input? As we develop a web page and a new brochure our designers may need additional photos and input.

Kathleen McCarter, our secretary, has jumped in to design a web page so that we have an ongoing and consistent place for members and non-members to check on activities and dates. It will also allow us to provide membership information and renewal forms, agendas and minutes for and from board meetings, and possibly an on-line bookstore link (pending final disclosure of the guidelines in the first-official national Friends Policy). No domain name or URL has been established yet, so look for an email in the near future to tell you how to access it.

Our brochure is being redesigned by Jay Rasgorshek, a graduate of Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Even more important, Jay grew up in Nampa less than a mile from the Refuge on Roosevelt and spent many days of his childhood at the Refuge with his family and as a Scout involved in events and activities. As such, he understands just how special Deer Flat is and why we want to protect it and enhance it for present and future generations.

We have previewed an animal collage he previously designed and hoped to use for the brochure, but staying with a traditional three-panel format may prohibit that. We will continue to provide feedback on a proof we anticipate receiving by the time this newsletter is published.



Refuge photo courtesy of Robert Allen

IDAHO GIVES! and So Did You!

On May first the friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge were official participants in the second annual IDAHO GIVES day-of-giving, coordinated by the Idaho Nonprofit Center. Of the 560 participating nonprofits, we were among thirteen in Canyon County and placed eighth with \$495.00 donated. I hope many of you went to the IDAHO GIVES website to watch the total dollars donated grow throughout the day. It is truly inspiring to see how generous Idaho is.

As I looked at the list of donors many names were familiar to me (Friends members), but three from Meridian and Boise were unknown, so it is nice to see that others support our mission, as well. Our most distant donation came from New York and is a relative of one of our members.

For those of you who mailed and emailed the information cards to family and friends, thank-you! If you have thoughts on how we can improve outreach next year, please provide feedback as soon as possible, so that we have time to incorporate it in next year's campaign.

If you wonder why you should donate during the campaign rather than directly to the Friends, the answer is two-fold:

- Throughout the 24-hour period the coordinators choose a statistic to look for (maybe the most money donated during the last hour or the most donations during the last half hour) and they award "golden tickets" to the winning organization equal to an additional \$500 or \$1,000 dollars. We cannot earn such prizes if our participant numbers and amounts donated are very low.
- While we will gladly accept your donation directly at any time, participating in the event increases our likelihood of being featured in press coverage and allows even more people to know who we are and what we do.

Thank you for your support this year, and please mark your calendars for next year's day of giving on May 7th of 2015.

2013 Membership Application

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Please fill out this page and return with a check payable to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Telephone



Goose Eggs & Golf Ball

Email address
(please include email address if you have one – this is our primary means of communicating with Friends members)

Annual Membership Categories:

- Owl (Senior & Student) \$ 10
- Deer (Individual) \$ 15
- Fox (Family) \$ 25
- Osprey \$ 50
- Eagle \$100
- Goldeneye \$500

TOTAL

All contributions are tax deductible.

Friends Activities

Please Mark the Activities that Interest you:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Habitat enhancement | Public relations |
| Staffing the bookstore | Grant writing |
| Greeting Refuge visitors | Lobby on behalf of the Refuge |
| Helping organize an event | Be an officer in Friends group |
| Litter pickup | Other _____ |
| Weed eradication | |
| Education events | |
| Photography | |
| Publicity | |

For more information, contact the
refuge at 467-9278 or

Email: deerflat@fws.gov

Website:
<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/index.html>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/DeerFlatNWR>

Executive Board:

- Noreen Tripp, President
- Lyndell Jackson, Vice President
- Kathleen McCarter, Secretary
- Genevieve Johannsen, Treasurer



Refuge photo courtesy of Robert Allen