

# Shoreline

Newsletter of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

## Upper Dam Repairs

Spring 2008 Volume 4 No 1

Repairs to the two nearly 100-year-old canal outlets on the Upper Dam at Lake Lowell began in December. The east end repairs should be completed in mid-summer 2008. The west end of the dam won't be done until spring 2009.

These repairs have permanently closed the road across the upper dam and closed Lake Avenue between Roosevelt and Lake Lowell Avenue until mid-summer.

To access the refuge Visitor Center, go to the intersection of Roosevelt and Indiana, and head south into the refuge.

## Gridlock at the Boat Dock!

The temporary closure of Lake Avenue may lead to gridlock at the Lake Lowell boat ramps after they re-open for the summer on April 15th.

Only two improved ramps will be available this season: at the Lower Dam and at the east end of the Upper Dam. The ramp on the west end of the Upper Dam will remain closed because of construction activities. In addition, the large dirt parking lot below the Upper Dam that serves as overflow parking on busy summer weekends will be unavailable until at least late July.



Repairs to the outlet at the Nampa Canal. The black arrow indicates the abrupt end of Lake Avenue, and the white arrow indicates the usual boat ramp overflow parking lot (photo copyright Mike Shipman).

“On busy weekends last summer, the overflow lot was often filled with over 60 parked cars,” according to Susan Kain, refuge Visitor Services Manager. “Because there will be no place for those vehicles to park while the road is closed, we are encouraging people to use the Lower Dam Recreation Area, or even to travel to Lucky Peak or Owyhee Reservoir” until all of the dam repairs are completed and boat launching facilities are fully available again in spring 2009.



View east along the Upper Dam across the breach where the Caldwell Canal is being repaired (photo copyright Mike Shipman).

# Wanted: Scout Day Volunteers

*I loved volunteering for Scout Day. The kids were terrific, and it was a joy to be able to work with them.*

*Lynnette Wilfling  
Refuge Scout Day Volunteer*

The Visitor Center is filled to capacity with laughter and learning one Saturday a month because of Scout Day, a new refuge program. At Scout Day, held the first Saturday of most months, volunteer leaders help Webelo, Bear, or Wolf Cub Scouts and Junior or Brownie Girl Scouts meet their wildlife badge requirements.

According to coordinator Amy Ulappa,

“Scout Day has proven to be very popular. In just the first two months, nearly 150 people participated, and we already have over 200 signed up for the next two months!”

Four volunteers are

needed each month to run the event. One staffs the welcome table from 12:30-1:30. The other three are station leaders who should plan to be at the refuge from 12:15-3:00.

Station leaders facilitate activities and a nature hike for one of three groups of scouts: Webelo Cub Scouts, Bear Cub Scouts and Junior Girl Scouts, or Wolf Cub Scouts and Brownie Girl Scouts.

Lesson plans,

supplies, and training are provided. Volunteers just need enthusiasm!

If you would like to volunteer for Scout Day, please contact Amy Ulappa at 467-9278 or [amy\\_ulappa@fws.gov](mailto:amy_ulappa@fws.gov).



Scouts learn about ecosystems by creating their own.



Scouts draw a local bird.



Scout Day volunteer Lynnette Wilfling guides a group of scouts on the Nature Trail.



# Winter Refuge



## *Earth Day Work Day*

- Who:** You and your friends & family
- What:** Improve refuge habitat by removing litter or noxious weeds
- When:** Saturday, April 19  
9 AM - Noon
- Where:** Refuge Visitor Center
- Bring gloves and water.
  - Wear clothes you can get dirty.
  - Bags & snacks provided.
  - Please pre-register.



**Come join in the fun!**

Local wildlife needs *you*. Become a

# ***WEED WARRIOR!***



**Who:** You and your friends & family!

**What:** Remove invasive weeds to improve wildlife habitat. Help wildlife and have fun outside.

**When:** 9 AM–11 PM, 3rd Saturday of each month between March and October.

**Where:** Meet at the refuge Visitor Center with gloves, water, and a shovel.

*With the refuge centennial coming up in February 2009, the timing of this grant couldn't have been better!*

*Susan Kain  
Visitor Services Manager*

## **A Historic Project**

The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge has recently been awarded a Preserve America grant by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Eleven partners agreed to work with the Friends and the refuge to research the history of the refuge and the reservoir, including documenting the role of Lake Lowell in the development of southwest Idaho and in the lives of local residents.

The research will be used to write an interpretive pamphlet and signs about refuge history. The signs will be installed along a historical interpretive trail to travel from the Visitor Center to and across the Upper Dam.

Volunteers will help with many aspects of the project, including conducting and transcribing oral histories (training will be provided), installing the new trail, designing the pamphlet and signs, and much more.

The project will include oral history interviews with a variety of people. Perhaps someone who worked on a CCC or WPA crew during the 1930s, someone who has been a long-term refuge neighbor or was involved with refuge or reservoir management, or someone who has hunted, fished, or watched birds at the refuge for many years.

Interested in volunteering for the project? Know someone who you think should be interviewed for an oral history? Then please contact Susan Kain at 467-9278 or [susan\\_kain@fws](mailto:susan_kain@fws).



A CCC-built pillar is moved in advance of dam repairs. It will be installed along the new road or new historical trail (photo copyright Mike Shipman).



# Summer Jobs for Teens

Hard-working teens who enjoy working outdoors can apply for a summer refuge job in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). The YCC works on projects including weed removal, repairing goose nesting platforms, and fixing fence.

Having fun is also part of the program. The crew usually takes a trip to Celebration Park or the World Center for Birds of Prey. A hot work day on the river may be punctuated by a short swim or water fight. Even weekly litter pickups can be fun, with stiff competition in the annual Diaper Derby.

Applicants must be available to work from June 16 through August 8, working 40 hours/week from 7:30 AM

to 4:00 PM. Participants earn \$5.85 per hour, the Federal minimum wage.

Interested teens should call (467-9278) or e-mail (deerflat@fws.gov) to have an application sent, or stop by the refuge Visitor Center to pick one up. Applicants must be at least 15 years old and cannot reach 19 years old before August 8, 2008. Participants must be in good health and have no history of serious disciplinary problems or criminal behavior. Previous Deer Flat YCC participants are not eligible to apply.

Applications are due May 2. Crew members will be randomly selected from all valid applications.

*"Each year, the refuge YCC helps us complete many conservation projects."*

*Elaine Johnson  
Refuge Manager*



The 2007 YCC crew puts the finishing touches on the trash monster they created.

## Please keep your dogs leashed!

Planning a spring refuge hike? Don't forget the leashes!

Top ten reasons to leash your dogs:

- 10) Protect your dog from injury by wildlife.
- 9) Your dog won't scare other visitors.
- 8) Protect ground-nesting birds and mammals.
- 7) Protect your dog from injury by litter and thorny plants.
- 6) Allow wildlife-watching visitors to see more wildlife.
- 5) Reduce stress on wildlife. Even long after a dog has left an area, its scent may stress wildlife.
- 4) Protect wildlife by preventing waste of their already-limited energy reserves.
- 3) Protect wildlife from diseases and parasites spread through dog feces.
- 2) Obey the law and avoid a fine of up to \$100 per violation.
- 1) Your dog can wear fashionable leashes and collars!



**Thanks!**



# Friends' Focus



## 2008 Schedule:

*General Meetings:* Based on results of a membership survey, **general meetings** will be bimonthly this year.

The April 1st meeting will be a candidate's forum to give Canyon County Commissioner and Prosecuting Attorney candidates the chance to present their platforms and answer questions prior to the May primary elections.

Mark your calendar for the remaining 2008 general meetings:

- June 3** Lake Lowell's Dams: Their History and the Current Repairs
- Aug. 5** Refuge Recreational Opportunities
- Oct. 7** Refuge Animals and a Report on BioBlitz 2008
- Nov. 11** Friends elections and end-of-year potluck

*Special Events:* Details about each of these events will be announced soon. Celebrate **International Migratory Bird Day** with Friends on Saturday, May 10. If you are interested in helping plan the event, contact Noreen Tripp, Projects Chair (468-0402).

A Friends-sponsored **photography workshop** is currently being planned. Mike Shipman, professional photographer and refuge volunteer, will lead the workshop from 8 AM-1 PM on Saturday, June 14th.

In late June or early July, the Friends hopes to schedule a **backyard wildlife habitat open house** at one or more Friends' houses.

*A Welcome:* The Friends Board recently hired an intern from Boise State University to help publicize and promote the Friends and the refuge. Travis Vance, a senior Communications and Journalism major from Bend, Oregon, is an avid outdoor adventurer with strong interest in the environment. He says he is looking forward to helping the Friends "pursue recognition, conservation, relationships, and changes that will enable [the refuge] to flourish." Welcome aboard, Travis!

## Upcoming Events:

### Tuesday, April 1

General Meeting, 7 PM  
County Commissioner and  
Prosecuting Attorney Candidate  
Forum

### Saturday, May 10

International Migratory Bird Day  
celebration, Time TBA

*Mission Statement: To promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.*

Want to become a member, join a committee, or receive the Friends newsletter?  
Then call Lee McGlinsky at 465-0404.



# Upcoming Refuge Activities

## March

Saturday, March 8

### Scout Day

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

**Registration is required!**

Saturday, March 15

### Weed Warriors

9-11 AM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, March 18

### Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

### Wild about Life Lecture

Gardening with Color

7 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, March 19

### Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

## April

Tuesday, April 1

### Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

### Friends Group Meeting

7 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, April 2

### Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, April 5

### Scout Day

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

**Registration is required!**

Tuesday, April 8

### Wild about Life Lecture

Reptiles

7 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, April 15

### Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, April 16

### Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, April 19

### Earth Day Work Day

9 AM - noon, Visitor Center

## May

Saturday, May 3

### Scout Day

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

**Registration is required!**

Tuesday, May 6

### Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, May 7

### Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, May 10

### International Migratory Bird Day

Time TBA, Visitor Center

Tuesday, May 13

### Wild about Life Lecture

Mule Deer Neighbors

7 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, May 17

### Weed Warriors

9-11 AM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, May 20

### Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, May 21

### Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

## WILD ABOUT LIFE LECTURE SERIES

A monthly lecture series that offers something for everyone. Topics range from identifying Idaho birds to wildlife-friendly landscaping and from identifying & removing weeds to fish identification.

Held 7 to 8 PM at the refuge Visitor Center usually on the second Tuesday of the month. **Mark your calendar and tell your friends!**

### March 18 Gardening with Color

Discover how to brighten your garden with annuals and perennials.

### April 8 Reptiles of the Northwest and Beyond

Join the Idaho Herpetology Society to learn more about reptiles.

### May 13 Mule Deer Neighbors

Learn more about these frequently-seen refuge residents.

**WILD ABOUT LIFE  
CO-SPONSORS:**







# Environmental Education

## Classroom Programs

Bring the refuge to your classroom! Refuge staff will visit your school to present a standards-based, interactive environmental education program. Available programs include:

- Alien Invaders
- Animal Camouflage
- Ecosystems Alive
- Lessons from the Lorax
- Touch Trunk
- What Did the Owl Eat?

## Traveling Trunks

Borrow free traveling trunks that contain everything you need to teach about a variety of topics, including:

- Bird Beaks
- FISH!
- Jaws and Levers
- Scat and Tracks

**For a complete list of programs and trunks, visit the refuge website.**

## Field Trips

Visit Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Lowell for a standards-based environmental education activity or hands-on exploration of sagebrush upland, riparian, and lake habitats!

### One Class?

Schedule a hike on the Nature Trail and/or an environmental education activity. All visits include time in the Visitor Center and a brief orientation to the refuge.

### More than one class?

Large groups will be split into smaller groups and rotated through 3 or 4 stations. Stations include the Visitor Center, Nature Trail, and one or more outdoor environmental education activities. Each station lasts 20-25 minutes. The Visitor Center station includes an 11-minute refuge orientation video.

### *Pass it on!*

*Do you know someone who might be interested in a FREE, fun environmental education program? Then please pass on a copy of Shoreline or help them contact us at the refuge. Thanks for helping us spread the word about our programs!*

*For more information about other environmental education opportunities, including Scout programs, service learning, and community programs, please contact us at (208) 467-9278 or deerflat fws.gov*

**All programs, trunks, and field trips are FREE!**

## Want to know more?

Visit the refuge web site at <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/education.htm> for more information, including details about classroom programs and field trip FAQs.

**Schedule a classroom program or field trip!**

Phone: (208) 467-9278 e-mail: [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov)