

Shoreline

Newsletter of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge to Collect Oral Histories

The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge was recently

awarded a Preserve America grant by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to research the history of Lake Lowell and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge and

to install a historical interpretive trail across the Upper Dam at the lake.

To capture some of the lake's rich history, research will include interviews with long-time or past residents who have personal accounts of activities that occurred at Lake Lowell. This project has particular urgency, as many of the people with first-hand accounts are in their later stages of life. It is also particularly timely, as the lake and refuge will be celebrating their centennial in 2009.

Do you know someone who has irrigated with Lake Lowell water for many years? Worked

on a CCC or WPA crew at Lake Lowell in the 1930s? Been a

long-term refuge neighbor or employee? Had a long-term history of fishing, hunting, or wildlife-watching at the lake?

Or, are you interested

in helping conduct oral history interviews during summer and early fall 2008? Training will be provided by the Idaho State Historical Society's oral historian in June.

To suggest potential interviewees, or to help with the project, please contact Lauren Giebler (208-467-9278 or lauren_giebler@fws.gov).



Rock-work along the upper dam done by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

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"It's exciting to have the chance to preserve local memories of the lake and refuge."

*Susan Kain
Visitor Services Manager*



Work crew that helped construct Deer Flat Reservoir (photo courtesy of Canyon County Historical Society).

Thanks, Amy!

Have you visited the refuge recently for a field trip, Reading at the Refuge, a Wild About Life lecture, BioBlitz 2007, Scout Day, or a volunteer event? Then you probably met Amy Ulappa, the refuge's full-time AmeriCorps volunteer.

off-site environmental education (EE) programs.

After watching interest in refuge EE programs increase and refuge staff and budgets decrease, Amy also improved and expanded the traveling trunks program to encourage



Amy teaches school kids about habitat through a "Lap Sit."

Amy has been busy since she started as the Environmental Education and Interpretive Specialist in October 2006. During her

teacher- rather than refuge-led programs. Traveling trunks provide activities and hands-on materials so teachers can independently teach about wildlife and habitat. During the 2006-07 school year only one trunk was checked out.

After Amy's efforts, trunks were checked out 32 times during the 2007-08 school year, helping teachers facilitate programs for over 1,100 students.

Among Amy's other accomplishments:

She developed and coordinated the Wild About Life monthly lecture series. Over 600 people have attended lectures on topics from wolves to water quality to xeriscaping since January 2007.

She developed and coordinated a monthly Scout Day to simultaneously meet the badge requirements of many Boy and Girl Scouts of various ages. During just five months since the program began, over 500 people have participated.

In contrast, only 157
(Continued on next page)

"Outstanding."

"Amy is awesome."

"Both the trunk and Amy were great. She seems like a natural educator."

Teachers' evaluations of Amy's programs



Amy works with BioBlitz Festival attendees in the Bug Tent.

over 3,000 hours of volunteer service, she has interacted with over 8,500 students in on- and

Thanks, Amy! (continued)

participated in scout programs in all of 2007.

She partnered with 12 county organizations to begin the Passport To Adventure program, encouraging kids to participate in local cultural, reading, and physical activities. The inaugural passport in 2007 was a success, and the 2008 passport program has just begun (see article on page 5).

She coordinated BioBlitz 2007 during which 296 refuge species were identified and over 425 people learned about the refuge and biodiversity at the BioBlitz Festival. Amy is currently planning a bigger and better BioBlitz 2008 to be held in August (see article on next page).

Amy is currently working with partners to construct an outdoor classroom at the Visitor Center. We hope to be able to start holding EE programs in the classroom by the end of summer 2008.

Sadly, Amy will be saying "goodbye" to the refuge at the end of August to pursue a master's degree in biology at Boise State University. Amy: Thanks for all your hard work, and enjoy your new endeavors!



Investigating a Groundwater Model with Desert Detectives Day Campers.

Now recruiting:

Environmental Education Specialist

Want to work with kids?

Want to learn and teach about wildlife?

Then apply for this full-time AmeriCorps position!

Application Deadline:

June 20, 2008

For more information:

Contact Susan Kain
(susan_kain@fws.gov
or 208-467-9278)

or visit

<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/americorps.htm>



Discover the Nature of Idaho

Why did you participate in BioBlitz 2007?

"It's great exposure for the museum."

*Exhibitor Bill Clark
Orma J. Smith Museum*

Surveying "seemed like a natural."

*Surveyor Jim Clark
Idaho Herpetological Soc.*

"Because I had a great time last year!"

Volunteer Elizabeth Dickey

"Because I live here!"

Lawn Gopher



"What's a BioBlitz?" is usually the first question people ask when they hear about the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge BioBlitz. It's a fair question, given that the first BioBlitz was held in 1996 and BioBlitzes are still uncommon in the western United States. A BioBlitz is a 24-hour rapid survey of biological diversity at a particular location.

The refuge's event is the only BioBlitz in Idaho. At BioBlitz 2007, volunteers identified nearly 300 refuge species, and over 400 community members came to the BioBlitz Festival to learn about biodiversity and local wildlife.

Volunteers Needed for BioBlitz 2008

The third annual BioBlitz will be held at the refuge on August 15th and 16th, from 3 PM Friday to 3 PM Saturday. There are many ways to get involved with this year's event. **Surveyors** are still needed to survey all taxa. **Local organizations** with a mission related to biodiversity are invited to

exhibit at the BioBlitz Festival. **Volunteers** make the event possible by helping surveyors, helping at the Festival, photo-documenting the event, and much more. BioBlitz 2007 was made possible by the over 70 volunteers. If you are interested in helping with BioBlitz 2008, contact Amy Ulappa at 467-9278 or amy_ulappa@fws.gov as soon as possible.

Public Invited to BioBlitz Festival

This year's BioBlitz Festival will be 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, August 16th. It will include a variety of hands-on and guided activities, including bird walks, boat trips to net and identify fish, and explorations of upland sage habitat to net insects. There will also be a craft room, a Bug Tent, and the chance to learn from local wildlife and environmental organizations' interactive exhibits.

As the festival date nears, a schedule of events will be available at <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat>.



Photos from BioBlitz 2006 and BioBlitz 2007 (Copyright Mike Shipman and Dick McKee)

Get Your Passport to Adventure!

Local families have a great opportunity for summer adventure with the **Passport to Adventure: Explore Canyon County**.

This summer program invites families to explore local culture and history, get physically active, and participate in library reading programs. To complete the adventure, participants must get two stamps in each of those three categories.

The free program runs through August 9th and is open to children 18 and under. To participate, pick up your passport at a participating organization, get your six passport stamps,

and return the completed passport before August 9th.

Completed passports will be entered into a drawing for prizes from local businesses to be held at the refuge's BioBlitz Festival on August 16th.

For more information, including a prize list, visit www.passportadventure.blogspot.com.



Passport

Organizations:

Caldwell Public Library
Caldwell Family YMCA
Caldwell Parks and Rec.
Canyon Cty. Hist. Museum
Celebration Park
Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
Hispanic Cultural Center
Middleton Public Library
Nampa Parks and Rec. Pools
Nampa Public Library
Nampa Recreation Center
Our Memories Indian Crk. Mus.
Warhawk Air Museum
Middleton Public Library

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!

Refuge Scrapbook

Spring Activities

Included Earth Day Work Day, Weed Warriors, Scout Days, Field Trips, and Dam Repairs



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.

Friends' Focus



Friends Photography Workshop:

Join Idaho professional photographer and wildlife biologist Mike Shipman for a half-day photography workshop exploring Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Mike will cover the basic principles of photography, camera operation, filters, and developing "camera vision" in the classroom and during walking tours of the refuge. Digital and film cameras and all skill levels are welcome. Bring your camera, owner's manual, and any equipment you would like to use or get help with. For more information or to register, call Mike at 466-9340 or e-mail mike@blueplanetphoto.com. The workshop costs \$85 for Friends members and \$95 for non-members. Lunch is included.



© Mike Shipman

International Migratory Bird Day:

About 40 people attended the Friends' International Migratory Bird Day Festival on May 10th. Tish Raptor Rehab brought live raptors, and families enjoyed a scavenger hunt along the refuge nature trail.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, June 3

General Meeting, 7 PM
Lake Lowell's Dams: Their History and the Current Repairs
Refuge Visitor Center

Saturday, June 14

Photography Workshop
with professional photographer
Mike Shipman, 8 AM - 1 PM

Tuesday, August 5

General Meeting, 7 PM
Refuge Recreational
Opportunities
Refuge Visitor Center

Saturday, September ?

Yard Sale, Date and time TBA

Tuesday, October 7

General Meeting, 7 PM
Refuge Animals and BioBlitz
2008 Report
Refuge Visitor Center

Tuesday, November 11

General Meeting, time TBA
Potluck and elections
Refuge Visitor Center

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

June

Tuesday, June 3

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Friends Group Meeting

7 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, June 4

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, June 10

Wild about Life Lecture

7 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, June 14

Photo Workshop

8-1 PM, Visitor Center

Registration is required!

Tuesday, June 17

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, June 18

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, June 21

Weed Warriors

9-11 AM, Visitor Center

Scout Day

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

Registration is required!

Saturday, June 30

Oral History Workshop

Registration is required!

July

Tuesday, July 1

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, July 2

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, July 8

Wild about Life Lecture

7 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, July 12

Scout Day

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

Registration is required!

Tuesday, July 15

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, July 16

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, July 19

Weed Warriors

9-11 AM, Visitor Center

August

Saturday, August 2

Scout Day

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

Registration is required!

Tuesday, August 5

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Friends Group Meeting

7 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, August 6

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, August 12

Wild about Life Lecture

7 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, August 16

Weed Warriors

9-11 AM, Visitor Center

BioBlitz Festival

10-3 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, August 19

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, August 20

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

WILD ABOUT LIFE LECTURE SERIES

A monthly lecture series offering something for everyone, from identifying Idaho birds to wildlife-friendly landscaping and living with wildlife. 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!**

June 10 Living with Wildlife

Learn how to coexist with your wildlife neighbors.

July 8 Ethnobotany: Local Plants and People

Find out how human-plant interactions have shaped us through history.

Aug. 12 Topic TBA

**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