

## Agenda for the Tuesday January 13, 2015 Master Naturalists Monthly Meeting

1. Continuing Education -- Glenn DeVoe, Carolyn Bishop, Brenda Pace, Dave Godfrey
  - a. Status and plans
  - b. Class on Native Plants scheduled for February 28 as part of the Idaho Falls Community Garden winter class series.
2. 2015 IMN class - Pegge Steele has offered to be the coordinator for this class. She will need help with publicity and "Mother Goosing", contact Pegge if you can help.
3. 2014 IMN class status: As of December 9th 15 of 19 students have met the education hours requirement, 5 have met the volunteer hour requirement.
4. Upper Snake Chapter volunteer hours: Sara has been compiling total hours for each chapter, for the period 2009-2013 our chapter has logged 22,530 volunteer hours. Wow.
5. Wildlife Society Meeting - Quinn sent this "Call for Papers" and other information for the upcoming Wildlife Society meeting in Pocatello. He has also indicated that any presentations by Master Naturalists would be very welcome.

*Here is a call for papers and other information regarding the 2015 meeting of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Also, here is the website that will be updated as we get closer to the date: <http://www.ictws.org/index.php>*

*I would encourage you to distribute this information to the Master Naturalists. If anyone has something they would like to present, either in a 15 minute talk, a poster, or the new 5-minute "Ignite" session (see the Call for papers for details), I encourage them to submit an abstract by the due date. The executive board encourages IMN participation and, though it is not yet on the website, we will only be charging a small registration fee for those IMNs who want to attend just the plenary session (prob. \$5-10). If IMNs want to attend the entire meeting, the registration fee will be at the "retiree" level (I believe that it is half of the regular price), so probably around \$75 or so.*

6. IDF&G Volunteer Activities -- James Brower
  - a. Status of ongoing activities
  - b. Upcoming activities.
7. Ongoing activities
  - a. Let's Go Outside Program Status/Plans -- Mary Dolven and Therese
  - b. Adopt-A-Wetland Project --Al Yonk -
  - c. Fishing Line Collection - Mike Zacher - Mike applied for, and was granted \$530 for this effort from the Upper Snake River Cutthroats.
  - d. BLM Bird Survey project status - Teresa
  - e. Camas NWR support - The following was from John Braastad who oversees Camas and Greys Lake NWR, regarding IMN help at Camas this year: *The Master Naturalists did a great job! Both Brian and Pam were pleased with the enthusiasm and willingness to get involved put forth by the Naturalists.*

*(Following is a report written by Pam Johnson, Camas wildlife biologist, that John shared) Camas National Wildlife Refuge benefited greatly from the help of the Master Naturalist program in the summer of 2014. This was the first summer that the Refuge used the Master Naturalists to help complete biological surveys and monitoring. We had a variety of individuals lend their time and knowledge, contributing over a 190 hours total. The following is a brief description of the surveys and monitoring that were completed.*

- i. *Small Mammal Trapping – One hundred and thirty five live-traps were run for two nights, in three different habitat types, with the help of the Master Naturalists. Grids of nine traps were placed in five random locations in each habitat type. This trapping survey was started in an effort to create a baseline of small mammals found on the refuge and also looks at species richness.*

- ii. *Amphibian Survey – Working with Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG), the Refuge initiated an amphibian survey using IDFG protocol. Sandhole Lake was surveyed and also served as IDFG’s training area for the Master Naturalists, as they assisted the State with more amphibian surveys during the summer.*
- iii. *Reptile Survey – A short survey was conducted by two Master Naturalists, in various locations, looking for reptile activity in preparation for some reptile trapping next year.*
- iv. *Biological Control Agent Site Monitoring – Camas has 15 release sites of Stem-mining weevils in Canada thistle plots across the moister areas of the Refuge. All fifteen sites were monitored, by the Master Naturalists. A sampling frame was used to assess overall vegetation cover and Canada thistle density. Biological control agent abundance was documented by randomly selecting plants and counting the number of larvae in each stem.*
- v. *Vegetation Monitoring – In 2011, sixty .25 acre vegetation plots were established on the Refuge as part of a vegetation mapping effort. We are trying to revisit 10 of these plots every year to document change over time. With the help of the Master Naturalists, we were able to monitor ten plots this summer, documenting cover of all species present and also the percent of bare ground, rock, etc. A coarse evaluation of the vegetation composition was also completed.*
- vi. *Butterfly Survey – For the past nine years, Camas has participated in the National 4th of July Butterfly Survey. With the help of several Master Naturalists we were able to complete the survey again this year.*
- vii. *Water Flow Readings – The Refuge has initiated weekly water flow readings in Well ditches and our main diversion ditch off Camas Creek, in an effort to better understand how best to use water on the Refuge. The flow readings are done in various locations along ditches to document how much water is going into wetlands and also ditch losses. The Master Naturalists helped us stay up on our goal of taking these measurements each week.*
- viii. *Camas has also benefited from the Master Naturalist program with our Environment Education efforts. Three Master Naturalists spent approximately 120 hours total, conducting Scout and School group environmental education programs throughout the year. This program has been going on for several years and has been very favorable for the Refuge.*

8. Upcoming volunteer/training opportunities

- a. IMN State Conference at Harriman - volunteers needed for the planning committee, Ken and Collette Olson have volunteered, more help would be good.
- b. Articles for Winter Newsletter - Pegge Steele submitted an article on the Archaeology projects
- c. The Idaho Falls Nordic Ski Patrol will host two nights of the 2014 / 2015 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. Banff shows are set for 7 pm on Thursday, February 5, 2014 and Friday February 6, 2015 at the Colonial Theater. We need volunteers to setup and man our trifold display, 2 free tickets available for each night.

9. February Board meeting - will be on the 10th.

10. Notes of interest : from Chris Deets " I am currently working at the US Naval Academy, but I am going to be starting a job as Education and Outreach Specialist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Bird Habitat. I will be working with communications and outreach strategies, grants and Duck Stamps. I am pretty excited! "

11. Suggested reading/viewing

from John Braastad: Thought this was interesting - showing global CO2 shifts

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/11/141118-nasa-video-carbon-dioxide-global-warming-climate-environment/>

12. Factoid - Glenn et al