

# The Rivers Edge

Volume 6 Number 2  
Spring 2009

[www.friendsofboyerdesoto.org](http://www.friendsofboyerdesoto.org)

## Calendar:

Board Meetings at Boyer:

May 6

June 3

July 1

## DeSoto Events

**Derrald Farnsworth-Livingston Exhibit**

April 1 – May 30

**International Migratory Bird Day**

May 9

**Wilson Island Campground Programs**

May 22 – September 4, Fridays

**Refugefest**

June 6

**Boyer Chute Events**

**Bike to Boyer**

June 27

## Our Mission

**To support the Boyer Chute and DeSoto National Wildlife Refuges in their efforts to preserve, protect and restore the biological diversity and their historical resources, while providing the opportunity for wildlife orientated activities, education and scientific research.**

## International Migratory Bird Day



## International Migratory Bird Day Activities at Boyer Chute NWR on May 9<sup>th</sup>

Come join the Friends of DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges on May 9<sup>th</sup>, International Migratory Bird Day, for an early morning bird walk. At 7:00 a.m. participants will meet at the main parking lot of Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge.

Following the 1 ½ hour bird walk, a delicious breakfast will be provided by the Friends Group. An RSVP is requested for the breakfast which is free to bird walk participants, but free will donations will be accepted.

At 10:00 a.m. Raptor Recovery of Nebraska will present an informative program on raptors at the Meadowlark Shelter near the main parking lot.

For more information please contact Debbie Hunsberger, at 551-1256 or Jerry Grove at [wildflower@huntel.net](mailto:wildflower@huntel.net), Friends Group Members. Sue McDonald, Supervisory Park Ranger at [sue\\_mcdonald@fws.gov](mailto:sue_mcdonald@fws.gov); or Boyer Chute NWR, 3720 Rivers Way, Ft. Calhoun, NE 68023, 402-468-4313. Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/boyerchute>

## Boyer Chute NWR News

It's now mid-April, and there are numerous bird species arriving daily. There are dozens of Canada Geese nesting on muskrat houses at Nathan's Lake (South end of refuge along CR51/River Road). The final frost was supposedly last night, so warmer conditions should bring out the Morel mushrooms. The fishermen are back at Boyer Chute, and some small channel catfish and freshwater drum are being taken. Area hikers, bikers and birdwatchers are also visiting the Refuge in good numbers.

The annual Spring Bird Count will be conducted at DeSoto NWR on Saturday, May 2, 2009. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and encouraged to attend. If we have enough birders, we will attempt to cover Boyer Chute NWR as well. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Jerry Toll (Omaha Chapter of the National Audubon Society) at 453-9239 for details.

The Friends Group will also be sponsoring an International Migratory Bird Day Event at Boyer Chute on Saturday, May 9, 2009. There will be a birding hike at 7:00-8:30 AM (meet at Boyer Chute Main Parking Lot), followed by a breakfast at Boyer Headquarters office. A program by Raptor Recovery will then be held at 10:00 AM at Meadowlark Shelter on the Island.

The Refuge's annual Bike to Boyer Event, sponsored by the Friends Group has been scheduled for Sat. June 27, 2009. The Ft Calhoun fire department will be serving breakfast and the Bike Rack, will be doing SAG. Scheels will be providing kids bikes,

helmets, sponsoring the SAG stop at the Forgot store and providing gift certificates for a drawing (26, 46, 66 mile ride). Please continue your outstanding support for this event. Contact Boyer's special event coordinator, Lori Amberg (e-mail: [clamberg@huntel.net](mailto:clamberg@huntel.net) or phone: 426-1353) if you are interested in volunteering in the planning or staffing the day of the event.

The refuge has two antlerless deer hunts (muzzleloader only) planned for Fall 2009. The Boyer Chute Early hunt will be held on Oct. 24-25, 2009, with 60 permits to be sold by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). The Boyer Chute Late hunt will be held on Dec. 5-6, 2009 (60 permits sold by NGPC). A third antlerless deer hunt (muzzleloader only) is scheduled for Jan. 9-10, 2010, and refuge will issue 75 access permits for hunters holding Season Choice Area 21 permits. The areas open for the deer hunts include the Boyer Chute Island, Nathan's Lake and Horseshoe Lake tracts, and also the Headquarters area.

Friends Group members are vital to the success of the mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Thanks again for all you do to assist Boyer Chute NWR.

Michael Ellis  
Refuge Manager, Boyer Chute NWR  
(402)468-4313

## 2009 Exhibits & Events

### April 1 – May 30

#### **Derrald Farnsworth-Livingston Exhibit**

Using nature and scenic landscapes as his photography pieces, Derrald enlists his technological background through the use of digital imaging, to create his masterpieces.

### May 9

#### **International Migratory Bird Day**

Discover and learn about birds and migration through a variety of activities. For more information: <http://www.birdday.org>

### May 22 – September 4, Fridays

### **Wilson Island Campground Programs**

Join us Friday evening at 8pm for a 45-minute ranger program at the Wilson Island picnic shelter.

### **June 6 – August 1**

#### **Jeff Murray Photography Exhibit**

Local artist

### **June 6**

#### **DeSoto RefugeFest**

Join us for an outdoor family-fun day with a carp fishing contest, boat tours, canoe and kayak rides, fishing and archery clinics, and food concessions. The event is hosted at the South Gate Recreation Area of the Refuge.

### **June 27**

#### **Bike to Boyer 2009**

The fifth annual Bike to Boyer will be held Saturday, June 27. Families are welcome for the family fun ride to the Chute. The Fort Calhoun Fire Department will sponsor a breakfast the morning of the ride. The event continues to spread the word about what a great place Boyer Chute is to bike and spend time with families. Spread the word to family, friends and co-workers!

To ensure a successful event, committee volunteers are needed to assist with a variety of planning activities - communication, registration fliers, t-shirt design, equipment and logistics of the ride. Volunteers are also needed the day of the ride at each bike stop location. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Lori Amberg at 426.1353 or clamberg@huntel.net.

### **President's Message**

Spring is upon us and winter has finally removed her vicious, cold grip from the Midwest. The scents and sounds of spring, and a fractured fibula caused me to slow down and appreciate nature's beauty. This spring I appreciated watching the goldfinch's plumage slowly lighten to a vibrant yellow, observing American Kestrel hunting in a nearby field and

watching my husband plant my vegetable garden!

Ready, set, go! April 15 the refuges are open to the public for morel mushroom hunting. National Public Radio had a commentary on morel mushrooms April 9 – the link is <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=102920035>. In a subsequent editorial, a listener sent in a comment and made the following statement, which I thought dedicated morel hunters will appreciate. "There are old mushroom foragers and there are bold mushroom foragers, but there are no old, bold mushroom foragers". Be careful what you pick and happy foraging!

Spring also means several Friends event are right around the corner - International Migratory Bird Day (May 9), Refugefest (June 6) and Bike to Boyer (June 27). Friends group and Refuge staff members are busy planning and coordinating numerous details for successful public experiences. If you have some free time on your hands, volunteers are always needed to assist with planning and on the day of the event.

Enjoy spring!

Lori Amberg  
President  
Friends of Boyer Chute & Desoto NWR

### **Gary Caldwell Memorial**

Recently, long time DeSoto volunteer, Gary Caldwell, passed away. His family asked that memorials be sent to the Friends Group for the purpose of purchasing an Eagle – cam for the DeSoto NWR. Thank you to all friends and family of Gary Caldwell for their contributions.

**Friends of Boyer Chute & DeSoto NWR  
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