

Thank you for your continued support of the Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program. The following newsletter contains information about upcoming events, current positions, highlights of your volunteer community and interesting information on our desert ecosystem.



Upcoming Events

Save the Desert Eco-Walk

Date: Saturday, March 9

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Families are welcome. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and have a signed Parental Consent form.

Location: Cottonwood Cove Resort and Marina

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Forever Resorts at Cottonwood Cove Marina and the National Park Service are co-sponsoring an eco-walk to clean-up the desert and road in the Cottonwood Cove area on March 9, 2013. Individuals, families and groups are welcome to participate in this desert clean-up. Eco-walk registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the event begins at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers will clean the area from the park boundary along the roadway to the Cottonwood Cove Marina. Cottonwood Cove Marina is located 13 miles east of Searchlight Nevada. We will have room for more than 100 volunteers to participate. Lunch will be provided following the cleanup for all volunteers helping out with the eco walk. For more information about volunteering or to register, call Christopher Pietrafeso at (702) 293-8711 or Chris_Pietrafeso@nps.gov

Ajo Lily Restoration Project

Date: Saturday, March 9

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Families are welcome. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and have a signed Parental Consent form.

Location: Cottonwood Cove

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Come and protect the Desert Lily by participating in an invasive plant removal project at Cottonwood Cove on March 9, 2013! Individuals, families and groups are welcome to participate in this invasive plant removal project. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the event begins at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers will remove invasive plants near the Cottonwood Cove Marina. Cottonwood Cove Marina is located 13 miles east of Searchlight, Nevada. For more information about volunteering or to register, call Bryan Goodwin at (702) 293-8717 or

Bryan_Goodwin@partner.nps.gov

Great American Clean-up

Date: Saturday, March 23

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Families are welcome. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and have a signed Parental Consent

Volunteer Spotlight



This is the time of year when the Northern leopard frogs at Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge begin to breed. Several of the refuge's springs host the southernmost stronghold of this small, native frog species which is declining in abundance across much of its historical range, particularly in the Western U.S. Jason Wurtz, 17, a junior at Pahrnagat Valley High School in Alamo, Nevada, volunteers his time in order to care for these secretive animals. With Jason's help, these frogs are doing pretty well in the refuge and have expanded their numbers and the sites they occupy. This year, Jason begins his third season.

Jason's contribution is in raising tadpoles into frogs which are released back into the refuge to establish new populations. He prepares his aquariums in February in anticipation of the frog breeding season. In early March, when at least three leopard frog egg masses are found, a biologist from the refuge collects a portion of a mass. The fresh-laid eggs are brought to Jason at the school, where he cares for them. Within days, the eggs hatch into tadpoles that require daily care and

feeding. Jason carefully watches over water quality, monitors temperature, and provides a special flaked food that keeps the tadpoles growing and healthy. Captive rearing provides protection from the many predators in nature that typically consume tadpoles. By late June or early July, Jason's tadpoles will have

form.

Location: TBD

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Come take part in the Great American Cleanup 2013 at Lake Mead National Recreation Area by participating in a litter cleanup! Join people across America in cleaning, beautifying and improving our quality of life! For more information or to register, please contact Bryan Goodwin at (702) 293-8717 or Bryan_Goodwin@partner.nps.gov. Volunteers will receive a code for free park entrance on the day of the event.

Gardening Gone Wild

Date: Saturday, March 30

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Must be at least 8 years old. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent at all times.

Location: Desert National Wildlife Refuge; Corn Creek Station

Agency: Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Join a team of volunteer to plant native grasses at Corn Creek. Native plants help prevent erosion, reduce dust, help to thwart invasives and provide important habitat for wildlife. Grass roots from this planting will help stabilize soil along the new wetland stream channel. The grasses are small and will be easily planted, as such this is a good project for smaller children assuming they are properly chaperoned by adults. Individuals need to be in fairly good physical condition as planting requires the ability to bend, kneel, and get a little dirty. Plan to be outside in cool, sunny condition with no shade – a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Adult work gloves, water, snacks, and a good time will be provided. For more information about volunteering or to register, call Harry Konwin at (702) 515-5494 or Harry_Konwin@fws.gov.

Put ‘Em in the Ground: Mesquite Tree

Date: Saturday, April 5

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Must be at least 12 years old. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent.

Location: Desert National Wildlife Refuge; Corn Creek Station

Agency: Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Join a team of volunteers to plant native mesquite trees at Corn Creek. Native plants help prevent erosion, reduce dust, help to thwart invasive plants and provide important habitat for wildlife. Some of the trees are quiet large and heavy and will be planted in an old horse pasture and planted. Children can help, however, but must be chaperoned at all times by an adult. Individuals need to be in fairly good physical condition as planting requires the ability to bend, kneel, and get a little dirty. Plan to be outside in warm, sunny conditions with no shade – a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Adult work gloves, water, snacks, and a good time will be provided. Registration starts at 8:30am at the visitor contact station parking lot. For more information or to register, call Harry Konwin at (702) 515-5494 or Harry_Konwin@fws.gov.

Gardening Gone Wild II: Back To The Plants

Date: Saturday, April 6

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Must be at least 8 years old. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent.

Location: Desert National Wildlife refuge; Corn Creek Station

Agency: Desert National Wildlife refuge

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Join a team of volunteers to plant native riparian plants and Corn Creek. Native plants help prevent erosion, reduce dust, help to thwart invasive and provide important habitat for wildlife. The plant roots from this planting will help stabilize soil along the new wetland stream channel. The plants are small and will be easily planted, as such this is a good project for smaller children assuming they are properly chaperoned by adults. Individuals need to be in fairly good physical condition as planting requires the ability to bend, kneel, and get a little dirty. Plan to be outside in warm, sunny conditions with no shade – a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Adult work gloves, water

transformed into 1-inch long frogs ready to be released back into the Refuge. With Jason’s help in “taking desert frogs to school”, Northern leopard frogs should continue to prosper in Pahrnagat Valley.

● **Upcoming Trainings**

[Click here to view the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area training schedule](#)

shade – a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Adult work gloves, water, snacks, and a good time will be provided. Registration starts at 8:30am at the visitor contact station parking lot. For more information or to register, call Harry Konwin at (702) 515-5494 or Harry_Konwin@fws.gov.

Red Rock Day

Date: Saturday, April 20

Time: 7:30am – 12:00pm

Audience: Public volunteers

Location: Red Springs Picnic Area. From the north, take Charleston Boulevard West out of the city which turns into highway 159 to Calico Basin road. Turn right on Calico Basin road, drive until you see Red Springs picnic area.

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Volunteer Work Type: Clean Up, Restoration

Volunteers are needed to assist with a litter clean-up of the Red Springs Picnic Area. Volunteers need to register by contacting Jim Sudduth at 702-515-5366 or jim@friendsofredrock.org.

Celebrate Earth Day at Lake Mead

Date: Saturday, April 20

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Individuals and Families welcome! Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and have a signed Parental Consent form.

Location: TBD

Agency: National Park Services

Volunteer Work Type: Clean Up, Restoration

Come and help Park Rangers by keeping Lake Mead Clean for Earth Day! Volunteers are needed to remove litter along the shoreline and desert to help protect wildlife and for visitors to enjoy. Park Rangers recommend that volunteers wear long pants and closed toed shoes while helping. Get outdoors and enjoy a spring day while lending a hand. Please register by contacting Chris Pietrafeso at 702-293-8711 or Christopher_pietrafeso@nps.gov.



Current volunteer positions



Volunteer Accomplishments

Bureau of Land Management

Information Desk Specialist – Red Rock Canyon NCA

Time Commitment & Duration: 4/11/2006 – 9/30/2015

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Interpretive Hike Leader/Hike Assistant – Red Rock Canyon NCA

Time Commitment & Duration: 4/11/2006 – 9/30/2015

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Landscaping Team – Red Rock Canyon NCA

Time Commitment & Duration: 4/11/2006 – 9/30/2015

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Natural Resource Team – Red Rock Canyon NCA

Time Commitment & Duration: 4/11/2006 – 9/30/2015

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Trail Monitor – Red Rock Canyon NCA

Time Commitment & Duration: 4/11/2006 – 9/30/2015

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

USFWS

RV Couple Interpretive Host/Maintenance – Moapa Valley National

Wildlife Refuge

Volunteers are working hard on federal lands! Check back next month to see what was accomplished.

Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:2/1/2013 – 5/27/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Campground Host/Maintenance – Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:2/25/2013 – 6/28/2014

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

RV Resident Volunteer Couple – Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:2/1/2013 – 12/27/2014

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Maintenance Assistant – Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:3/1/2012 – 5/9/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Trail Ambassador/Interpreter – Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 9/1/2012 – 5-31/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Naturalist/Interpreter – Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 6/4/2012 – 6/4/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Administrative Assistant – Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:1/1/2013 – 6/28/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

RV Resident Volunteer Couple – Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:4/15/2013 – 12/31/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

NPS

Cactus Garden Volunteer – Lake Mead NRA

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/22/2013 – 1/24/2014

[Click here for more information and to apply online](#)

Visitor Center Volunteer

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/22/2013 – 1/24/2013

[Click here for more information and apply online.](#)

Deckhand – Boating and Water Safety Program

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/22/2013 – 5/22/2013

[Click here for more information and apply online.](#)

Field Trip Educator

Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/2012 – 4/30/2013

[Click here for more information and apply online.](#)

Desert Princess Floating Classromm Educator

Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/2012 – 5/15/2013

[Click here for more information and apply online.](#)

Water Safety Educator in Schools

Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/2012 – 5/15/2013

[Click here for more information and apply online.](#)

Lake Mead Native Plant Nursery

Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/2012 – 10/1/2013

[Click here for more information and apply online.](#)

Hike Leaders or Hike Assistants

Time Commitment & Duration: 10/1/2012 – 5/1/2013

[Click here for more information and apply online.](#)

USFS

Trail Host – Humboldt-Toiyabe – NV

Time Commitment & Duration:5/26/2013 – 9/30/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Get Outdoors Nevada – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Time Commitment & Duration:1/1/2013 – 12/31/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Visitor Center Host – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Time Commitment & Duration:1/1/2013 – 12/31/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Mt. Charleston Litter Pick Up – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Time Commitment & Duration:1/1/2013 – 12/31/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Snow Play Host – Humboldt-Toiyabe

Time Commitment & Duration: 12/17/2012 – 4/1/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)



Conservation Project Spotlight

Few landscapes are as contrasting as Pahrnagat Valley's lush wetlands and the surrounding Mojave Desert. Life-giving waters from Crystal and Ash Springs flow through the valley, nourishing the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

and offering ideal wetland and riparian habitats for thousands of migratory birds, numerous birds of prey, deer, and rare fish. Pahrnagat NWR, established in 1963, conserves important habitat for birds migrating through eastern Nevada. Birds traveling from as far away as Alaska and Central America make use of the refuge's abundant food resources and nesting habitats.

Crystal and Ash Springs, located north of the refuge, make the wetlands and riparian areas of Pahrnagat Valley possible. The source of these springs is water rising from an aquifer deep underground in porous carbonate rocks. Bulrush grows in marshes, providing nesting habitat and cover for migratory waterfowl, such as redheads, gadwalls and mallard ducks. Cottonwoods and willows flourish along the shorelines and provide cover for yellow warblers, vermilion flycatchers, and other song birds. During spring, the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher also uses this vegetation for breeding and foraging. Red tailed hawks nesting in cottonwood trees feed their young with the valley's bounty of voles and mice. In winter, bald eagles soar above the lakes, looking for fish or ducks while golden eagles scan the wider landscape for cottontails and jackrabbits. The abundant water resources of the refuge also draw a number of mammals. Mule deer and coyotes wandering the refuge's meadows and treed areas can be seen during the early and late hours of the day.

Visit this unique oasis during the spring and fall migrations for the best chance to see festive displays of colorful song birds and a diversity of ducks and other waterfowl passing through the refuge. Cast a line for fish, camp with lakeside views, or enjoy a paddle across one of the lakes. Or, simply stop by the refuge to walk the surrounding trails and enjoy the shade of the cottonwoods and willows. Bring binoculars and enjoy the diversity of wildlife found at Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge.



Desert Ecosystem Spotlight

This spring, along the quiet lakeshore, you can hear high-pitched trills, "whitts" and "wheos". A small vocal songbird communicates to its mate, and warns others of its territorial boundaries. The southwestern willow flycatcher nests in vegetation along rivers and streams or other wetlands. It is known to occur only in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada

vegetation along rivers and streams or other wetlands. It is known to occur only in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah, and has been listed as endangered since 1995 under the Endangered Species Act. Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge is home to several breeding pairs. The southwestern willow flycatcher migrates from its southwestern U.S. breeding grounds to winter in Central and northern South America. Its annual spring return to the U.S. coincides with the hatching of riparian woodland insects. The flycatcher and other bug-eating birds consume huge numbers of these insects, including mass quantities of mosquitoes, whose numbers could otherwise grow out of control.

Flycatcher populations have declined significantly throughout their range because of changes to riparian ecosystems as a result of dams and reservoirs, groundwater pumping, urbanization and other modifications. Predation of flycatcher nests also affects populations, especially those in smaller numbers and at more isolated locations. Modification and loss of wintering habitat and "stopover" habitat used by flycatchers to replenish energy reserves during migration, and the continued use of pesticides in Latin America are also believed to be contributing to the decline of flycatchers.

At Pahrnagat NWR the work of staff and several volunteer planting events have helped to conserve and enhance the existing habitat for these endangered birds. By conserving threatened and endangered species and protecting their homes, we also help ensure the benefits they give us — not just natural beauty but also healthy air, land and water.

Thank you again for supporting our public lands.

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