

# Bitter Lake News

Fall 2022

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merideth Hildreth

WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE - THE 2022 DRAGONFLY FESTIVAL IS A GO! Join us on Saturday, September 10 for the Dragonfly Festival! To Book reservations for the Dragonfly Tours and Wildlife Tours, call the Refuge's Front Desk at the new number 575.244.6256 beginning on August 1. Special thanks to Steve Alvarez, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Refuge and Jimmy Masters for co-chairing the Dragonfly Festival events.

Thanks to the Dragonfly Festival Committee members for their work to plan the best festival yet! There's still time to become a Dragonfly Festival Sponsor or sign up as a volunteer to make the festival run smoothly. Be sure to visit the Nature Store for unique t-shirts and gift items during the Festival and this Fall. Proceeds go toward supporting the Refuge's programs and mission. Thank you to the members who attended the Summer General Membership Meeting held in June and to the Refuge Volunteers. Be sure to visit the Farmers and Crafts Market held every Saturday morning until October on the Court House lawn on Main Street where Don Weld is graciously setting up a table to promote Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge. We want to welcome Carl Jacobsen who is now the Refuge's Biologist. So many great things are happening at the Refuge due to the efforts of Refuge Manager Lindsey Landowski and staff! We'll see you at the Dragonfly Festival. Be sure to bring your friends and renew your membership, or join the Friends group.



*Autumn meadowhawk dragonfly by Cliff Powell*



*Marl Pennant dragonfly by Cliff Powell*

2022 CRANES & COCOA Saturday, November 26, 2022 from 3:30 p.m. to dusk Join Friends of Bitter Lake and refuge staff to learn more about cranes over some cocoa or hot cider and cookies. Take a guided tour on the refuge to look through staffed spotting scopes. Open to all ages!

## The Night After...

### The Dark and Stormy Night

You may remember the torrential rains of Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. My backyard rain gauge recorded 2.3 inches by Monday morning. It got us barking frog surveyors pretty excited Sunday afternoon. Rain! J. C. Boothe, our refuge biology technician and project leader, called to invite me on our first (and possibly only) frog survey. There will be frogging tonight! But alas, there was lightning overhead that evening. A big pickup on the flat, treeless landscape is too easy a target. Survey was postponed until Monday night.

And what a night that was--perfect for searching: overcast sky, slightest of breezes, balmy temperatures and NO mosquitos despite the recent heavy rains. We assembled at the Refuge entrance gate at about 8:30 PM: J. C. and his visiting volunteers from ACE\*, Lynae and Sully, and me, your very eager observer/reporter. The conditions were so ideal, I felt sure we would hear frogs.

If you remember from our first discussion about the unusual frog that makes our refuge its home, the “barking” is the frog’s call for a mate. Unlike ordinary frogs, *Craugastor augusti* lives in high-ground holes and rock crevices rather than in or near water. And even though it has no tadpole stage, its eggs must be laid in water to stay viable. Ergo, recent rain is the call to courtship, and recent rain is exactly what we’d had. J. C. reported 1.74 inches at Bitter Lake NWR in the previous 24 hours. We had good reason to be optimistic, and we were not disappointed.

In fact, our very first observation point at the Refuge entrance yielded some faint and distant calls. It wasn’t yet dark, and the critters were far afield, but we were encouraged. We headed for the Bike Trail, where previous surveys had reported barkers. Remember, they’re found upland, not near the water impoundments. Again, we heard distant voices as we slowly headed toward the gate at Bitter Lake Road, stopping every few hundred yards. Turning around at that point, we were returning to the parking area by the biology building when we heard a burst of calls at about the halfway point. The number of calls was amazing to me, the most I had ever heard over the previous 3 years of surveys. We hopped out of the truck and scattered along the road and field, following calls with flashlights and video from our cell phones to try and spot the elusive critters. We came oh, so close, even so far as to find the hole the target frog was calling from, but never got a glimpse. Oh well, the fun was in discovering that Bitter Lake NWR is still home to many of these rare, unique and elusive creatures, and to hear again their strange and funny “wauuk” in the night.



Barking Frog

Eagerly awaiting the next big rain...Sue Briney  
6/29/22

\* American Conservation Experience is a non-profit organization that recruits young people to volunteer at various National wildlife refuges, parks and forests to assist with conservation projects in preparation for careers in conservation. Check it out at <https://www.usaconservation.org/>

## New Biologist at Bitter Lake NWR!

Lindsey Landowski

Please welcome Carl Jacobsen as the new wildlife biologist for Bitter Lake NWR! Carl's interest in wildlife conservation began when he traveled to Costa Rica to volunteer for a sea turtle project as a teenager. In 2019 Carl received his Master of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources and a certificate in GIS/Spatial analysis from West Virginia University where he studied the effects of climate change and prescribed fires on the distribution and abundance of the Cow Knob salamanders. Carl has conducted research on the management of threatened and endangered species and species of concern in the following places: bog turtles for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, desert tortoises for the University of Florida, black-footed ferrets and spade foot toads for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and chinook and coho salmon for the University of Alaska Anchorage. In his free time, Carl enjoys wildlife photography, exploring nature in new places, trying out new recipes, and working on puzzles with his partner Gracie. We are excited to have Carl on board at Bitter Lake!



*Americorps Crew treating invasive plants like phragmites and cattail.*

# 2022 Dragonfly Festival



Artwork winner:  
Kimber Lucas  
5th grade,  
Berrendo Elementary.

**Saturday, September 10, 2022**  
**Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

**Birding Tour | Dragonfly Tour | Refuge Wildlife Tour**  
**Live Butterfly Release | Kids Fishing Pool**  
**Arts & Crafts | Children's Scavenger Hunt**  
**Fridays Raptor presentation on September 9th at 6:30pm**  
**FREE Family Fun!**

ADVANCED TOUR RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED.

For more information, call **575 625-4011** or **575 244-6256**

**[www.friendsofbitterlake.org](http://www.friendsofbitterlake.org)**

# 2022



# DRAGONFLY FESTIVAL

## SEPTEMBER 10

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



## TOUR SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY TOURS

SEPTEMBER 10

#### EARLY BIRD TOUR

6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

#### DRAGONFLY TOURS

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

#### WILDLIFE TOURS

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY TOURS

SEPTEMBER 11

#### DRAGONFLY TOURS

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Reservations Start  
August 1st

## TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

#### DRAGONFLY TOUR

Our most popular tour! Join professional dragonfly experts and see some of over ninety species of dragonflies and damselflies that inhabit the refuge. Capturing wild specimens, the guide will give you an up-close experience with these fascinating insects.

#### BIRDING TOUR

Join some of our local bird experts and discover some of over three hundred and fifty bird species that visit the refuge. Named as "Wetlands of International Importance," Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge provides an outstanding bird watching opportunity for both beginning and experienced bird watchers.

#### REFUGE WILDLIFE TOUR

Join a wildlife biologist on this hands on tour and experience where many wildlife species call home. Visitors will be led to a variety of wildlife field stations where they will observe some of the unique wildlife that inhabit the refuge. Stations include a reptile display tank, fish trapping and invertebrate display.

### Great Family Fun!

#### Live Butterfly Release Event

Kids Fishing Pool  
Arts & Crafts  
Children's Scavenger Hunt



Live Bird & Bat Programs 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

[www.fws.gov/refuge/bitter\\_lake/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/bitter_lake/)

Call (575) 625-4011 or (575) 244-6256

Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge



Membership Form

- Individual       Family  
 Student         Business

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
 Friends of Bitter Lake NWR  
 4200 E. Pine Lodge Rd.  
 Roswell, NM 88201

Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
Membership Form Instructions



Just two easy steps to join:

1. Complete the form on the left side of the sheet and mail it with your dues to the Refuge.
2. Complete the Membership Card below and keep it for your records.

\*Membership includes 10% discount at Nature Store

(Fold Here)



Friends of Bitter Lake  
Membership Card

www.friendsofbitterlake.org  
(575) 244-6256

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Membership expires 1 year from above date.

**Friends of Bitter Lake NWR**  
**4200 East Pine Lodge Road**  
**Roswell, NM 88201**