

Bitter Lake News

August 2024

Dragonfly Festival 2024

September 7th 2024

Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

DRAGONFLY TOUR
Discover the magic of dragonflies and damselflies on our most popular tour! Led by passionate experts, you'll explore the Refuge's diverse habitat, home to over ninety species of these captivating insects. Experience the thrill of seeing these ancient, ethereal creatures up close as our guides carefully capture wild specimens for your observation. You'll marvel at their iridescent wings, intricate features, and learn about their crucial role in our ecosystem. This unforgettable adventure will transform your perspective on the natural world and leave you with a newfound appreciation for these fascinating aerial acrobats.

BIRDING TOUR
Prepare to be captivated by the breathtaking avian spectacle at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, a true paradise for bird enthusiasts of all levels! Your heart will soar as you explore this magnificent haven, internationally recognized as "Wetlands of International Importance," where over 350 species of feathered wonders grace the skies and waters. You'll embark on an unforgettable journey of discovery, immersing yourself in the vibrant tapestry of birdlife that calls this sanctuary home. Whether you're a seasoned birder or just spreading your wings in the world of bird watching, the Refuge promises an awe-inspiring experience that will leave you spellbound and yearning for more.

REFUGE WILDLIFE TOUR
Embark on an unforgettable journey with our passionate wildlife biologist and discover the hidden treasures of our beloved Refuge. Your heart will race as you encounter the diverse creatures that thrive in this precious sanctuary. From mesmerizing reptiles to elusive fish and fascinating invertebrates, each moment will leave you in awe of nature's wonders. This rare opportunity to connect with wildlife up close will create memories you'll cherish forever.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM
AUBRIANNA GONZALES
WASHINGTON AVE. ELEMENTARY
4TH GRADE

SATURDAY TOURS
September 7

DRAGONFLY TOURS 8:30 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. 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. 2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.	 EARLY BIRD TOUR 6:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.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.
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SUNDAY TOURS
September 8

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 begin August 1, 2024 Live bird & bat programs 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
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For more information & reservations, call **575-244-6256**

www.fws.gov/refuge/bitter_lake **FREE** family activities • dragonfly tours • and more!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT BITTER LAKE

Friday, Sept 6 at 6:30 p.m.: Dragonfly presentation, followed by stargazing with the Roswell Astronomy Club

Saturday, Sept. 7, Dragonfly Festival 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.: in addition to dragonfly and biology tours, there will be a fishing pool station, monarch butterfly release, arts and crafts, archery, and live raptor and bat presentations. Stellar Coffee will have coffee and pastries, and the Boy Scouts will be selling food. Come learn about our local, state, and federal partners!

Saturday, Nov. 9 at 4:00: Cranes and Cocoa, 3:00 pm. This is the best time of the year to view the spectacular fall migration as birds move into the refuge for the night, and leave to forage early in the morning

Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

4200 E. Pine Lodge Rd., Roswell, NM 88201 Contact phone: 575-244-6256

e-mail: bitterlakefriends@gmail.com, <https://www.friendsofbitterlakenwr.org/>



Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Monarch Butterfly Release: This event is free for kids, but you must call to put your child on the list to help release a butterfly during the Dragonfly Festival. There are a limited number of butterflies available. Call 575-244-6256 for your free ticket!

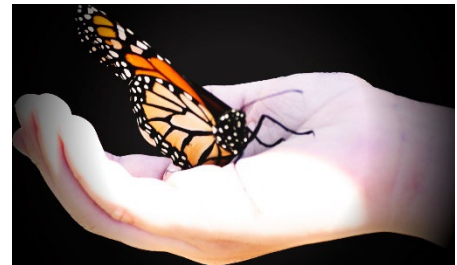


Photo courtesy Gregory Steiger

Dragonfly Festival Art Contest



On May 15, there was a gathering of several judges at the Visitor Center to determine who the winning artist would be for this year's Dragonfly Art Contest. There were close to 400 entries this year from kindergarten to 5th grade. After much deliberation, the work of 4th grader Abrianna Gonzales from Washington Avenue Elementary was chosen for Best in Show. She was honored at an assembly at her school and received a prize of \$125. Her art will be used to promote the 2024 Dragonfly Festival.



The first place winners from each grade level are:

Kindergarten: Mia Martinez from El Capitan, 1st grade: Ariana Nunez from Valley View, 2nd grade: Ximena Sosa from All Saints, 3rd grade: Cayden Garnand from Gateway, 4th grade: Abrianna Gonzales from Washington Ave. and 5th grade: Emilio Valenzuela from Valley View. The winning artwork will be on display at the festival, which is on Saturday, September 7. Congratulations to all the artists who contributed to the contest this year! It is always a challenge to select the one top piece of art, and all the kids who enter are so talented and very much appreciated.

June General Meeting

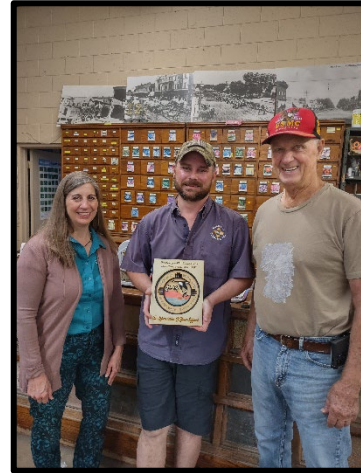
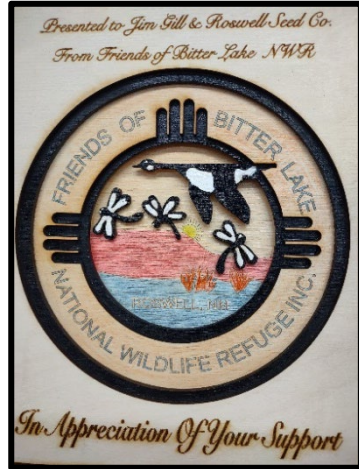
The June General Meeting was held June 8 at the Visitor Center. After a delicious lunch catered by La Gran Victoria, Officer Max Copenbarger, of the New Mexico Game and Fish spoke. He talked about his job as a law enforcement officer, his qualifications, training, and what his work entails. It was very interesting, and there was quite a bit of interaction with his audience. Officer Copenbarger shared his knowledge on the wildlife of New Mexico, and the differences in how things are handled by the different agencies of state, federal, and Native American Reservation.



Photo courtesy Jeremy Busby

Well- Traveled Visitor

A wayward Roseate Spoonbill caused quite a stir when he showed up at the refuge in July! Blown off course by Hurricane Beryl, he was able to recoup by spending a few weeks at the refuge, before he left to search for some of his spoonbill friends. Spoonbills are typically found along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico downward towards Central and South America. It was an exciting find for birders and visitors that were able to see him. A rare treat!



Merideth Hildreth and Don Weld with Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge present commemorative plaque to Ben Manatt to honor Jim Gill and Roswell Seed Company, Inc., for long-standing contributions to the Refuge. Thank you to Roswell Seed Company, Inc. for your support!

Photos courtesy of Susan Weston

Bitter Lake at the Zoo



On June 22nd, there were two events held at the Roswell Zoo. One was the Morning Garden Club's Pollinator Party. The other was a festival for families that were evacuated from Ruidoso during the fires. Bitter Lake hosted a table focused on butterfly migration education. Many families visited the table, looked at the displays, and children played the Monarch Migration Game and happily helped themselves to the free

takeaways that were on the table for them to choose from. It was evident that parents were happy to have a place to take their kiddos after the traumatic events of the week. Many local people were out too, enjoying the festivities, relaxing in the shade, and visiting all the different stations. In fact, this was such a popular event that Mr. and Mrs. Claus took some time out of their off-season to stop and learn some facts about butterflies!



Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Membership Form



- Individual \$25 Family \$35
 Business \$50

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Are you interested in volunteer opportunities?

Yes! No

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.

(Fold Here)



Friends of Bitter Lake
Membership Card

www.friendsofbitterlakenwr.org

(575) 244-6256

E-mail: bitterlakefriends@gmail.com

Name: _____

Date: _____

*Membership expires 1 year from above date.

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