

Refuge to Bury 100-Year Time Capsule and Commemorate CCC

In honor of the Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System this year, each of the 540 National Wildlife Refuges in the United States is filling and burying a 100-year time capsule. Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge will be burying our local time capsule on Tuesday, August 19th, at 1:00 PM, and the public is invited to join in the ceremony. A new monument commemorating the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) will also be unveiled and dedicated at this event.

The time capsule is a 12-inch by 36-inch metal cylinder. It will be buried under the flag pole at the Refuge headquarters, and opened in 100 years, on March 14th, 2103. During the past year, many local citizens, businesses, and schools donated time capsule items that they felt will be of interest to those folks living in our area 100 years from now. A few of the items to be buried include: a copy of local newspapers for the week of March 14th, 2003; school newspapers; historic photos of the CCC Camp; other historic photos of the Refuge and staff; survey data on the birds and wildlife common to our area today; a solar-powered, hand-held calculator; a Medicine Lake Honkers t-shirt; computer diskettes and CDs; a pair of binoculars; wildflower and native grass seeds; bird feathers; a list of birds seen at the Medicine Lake 4th grade class bird feeder during winter 2003; a Refuge uniform; and the memoirs of a former CCC Camp enrollee.

Everyone is invited to the Refuge headquarters for a short dedication ceremony, and the burial of the time capsule. Come and throw in a shovelful of dirt to play a part in our local history! Light

refreshments will follow. Attendees will also be encouraged to stop by the Refuge recreation area (on Highway 16, south of the bridge) and see the new monument and bronze plaque erected in honor of the work of the CCC during the Refuge's early days in the late 1930s. This monument was a cooperative effort among past CCC members and the Refuge, with donations coming from individuals, businesses, and civic organizations.

The Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System in 2003 marks the 100th anniversary of the world's largest network of lands and waters set aside to protect wildlife. From its beginnings at Florida's tiny Pelican Island, the Refuge System has grown to include more than 530 refuges and wetland management districts, encompassing more than 95 million acres. With at least one refuge in every state and U.S. territory, the National Wildlife Refuge System provides sustainable recreation that generates economic support to communities across the country.

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