

Local Time Capsule to mark 100 years of National Wildlife Refuges

In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003, each of the 539 National Wildlife Refuges in the United States will be filling and burying a time capsule. These time capsules will be opened in 100 years, on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2103. Staff at the Medicine Lake Refuge are busy getting together items that will help our descendants get a glimpse of what the Refuge is like today.

The Refuge is asking local citizens, groups, and schools to submit items they would like to see included in the time capsule—artifacts, photos, and writings that they feel will be of interest to those folks living in our area 100 years from now. Some ideas so far include: a copy of the Sheridan County News for the week of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003; historic photos of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp on the Refuge during the late 1930s; survey data on the birds and wildlife common to our area; bird feathers; modern fishing tackle; a solar-powered, hand-held calculator; computer diskettes and CDs; a pair of binoculars; wildflower seeds; photos of school groups visiting the refuge; and a Refuge uniform.

The Refuge especially welcomes submissions from older community members who may have worked in the historic CCC Camp at the Refuge. School children who enjoy using the Refuge are also encouraged to submit drawings, poems, or essays for our future generations to enjoy. The time capsule is a 12-inch by 36-inch metal cylinder, so that will limit whether some items can be included or not. The time capsule is on display at the Sheridan County Library for the month of

February, along with the Refuge Quilt that was created in honor of the Centennial.

Submissions for the time capsule will be taken until the up-coming Refuge Open House on March 14th, at which time the capsule will be dedicated for burial later this spring. The Open House (featuring a Birthday Party for the National Wildlife Refuge System) will be held at the Refuge headquarters on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 4 PM. At 2 PM, actor/historian Arch Ellwein will address the audience in a living-theater presentation of A Visit with Teddy Roosevelt. Birthday cake and refreshments will follow. Please call Beth at the Refuge (789-2305) for more information or to submit an item for the time capsule.

The Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System in 2003 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> 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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