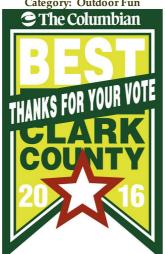


April 2016

Best of Clark County

Winner: RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE **REFUGE!**

Category: Outdoor Fun



Since 2008, The Columbian asks people who love Clark County to nominate their favorites in various categories including restaurants, shops, and recreation. These nominations generate a top 5 for each category. The public votes for two weeks among the top 5 in each category to determine category winners. The list of winners is annually published in The Columbian as the Best of Clark County. The 2016 results are in and for the category of Outdoor Fun, The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge wins! Clark County is telling the world that they appreciate this great natural, educational and fun resource we have right here, thank you Clark County!

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Joining comes with great benfits including perks like 5% off at the Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon in Downtown Ridgefield just for being a member of the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge! Check out the Benefits of Membership below to find out more.

Calling All Volunteers!

Plankhouse Volunteer Training: Saturday- April 2nd, 10 am - 3 pm

The Plankhouse at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge provides the community a space to celebrate, learn about, and interact with local Native American culture. Volunteers lead that learning and discovery on the weekends with the public and during the week with school groups. Come to this introductory class and learn how you can be part of this lead hikes, special family activities, and a special amazing team. No experience necessary. Just bring your interest in culture and nature and we provide all the training.

RSVP to Sarah Hill at 360-887-4106 or Sarah Hill@fws.gov

Events

Volunteers Wanted!

Check out our "Calling All Volunteers" article to the left for volunteer opportunities!

The Plankhouse Spring Opening Celebration is

April 17th!

Come out to the Plankhouse from 12-4 for Naturalist presentation which will be announced soon. Check the Cathlapotle Plankhouse News section below for more info!

Ridgefield First Saturday: Celebrate Earth Day!

Volunteer Naturalist Training: For those

interested in working with school groups and the general public at Ridgefield AND Steigerwald Lake! Fridays- April 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

Thousands of adults and school children visit our local refuges annually and volunteers are often the only people they get to share their stories and questions with. Share your interest and passion with others by exploring with school children, leading guided walks with the public, or simply greeting people on our trails and in the contact station. This training will introduce both Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake Refuges and how to interact and communicate with many fun and interesting people.

RSVP to Josie Finley at 360-887-4106 or Josie Finley@fws.gov

<u>To View The PDF announcements for these volunteer</u> part of saving the planet for the next generation <u>opportunities</u>, and beyond - all in a fun and celebratory fashion,

or for more info click HERE

BirdFest & Bluegrass Planning Committee Seeks New Members and Chair!

BirdFest & Bluegrass Planning Committee Seeks New Members and Chair!

Do you love attending our annual BirdFest celebration? Do you want to see it be successful in 2016? If so, than we need YOU to get involved in planning next years event. Commitment is one two hour meeting a month, March - September, and volunteering BirdFest Weekend (October 1st & 2nd).

We are looking for help in the following areas:

- Committee Chair (Work with current committee chair to schedule/host monthly meetings, and handle big picture event logistics)
- Organizing Kids activities in Davis Park
- Coordinating the vendors in the Birders Marketplace at the Community Center
- Coordinate special walks or talks
- Just sit in and brainstorm new and exciting BirdFest activities!

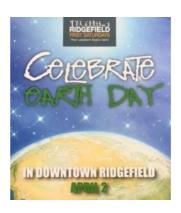
Want to Make BirdFest a success? Contact Sarah at: <u>sarah hill@fws.gov</u> (360) 887-4106

Pacific Flyway Ambassadors



Birdtripper Project Overview

Date: April 2nd Events Start at 9:00am



Get your environmental game on at this earthembracing event. Learn to compost, garden responsibly, watch Earth Day short films, and be a part of saving the planet for the next generation and beyond - all in a fun and celebratory fashion, of course!

9:00AM: **Trail Walk** thru Abrams Park, guided by Tailored Fitness

10:00AM: SHRED IT!! Have confidential documents shredded for free @ the View Ridge Middle School parking lot

10:00AM - 3:00PM: Overlook Park Festivities:

- Farmer's Market featuring additional local farmers
- Ridgefield Art Association with interactive activities
- Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
- Kids Craft Activity make your own minigarden to take home
- 5-Minute Films on environmental and savingthe-world topics

Earth Day Themed Scavenger Hunt Make an Environmental Pledge Station Noon: Beer and Wine Garden Opens @ Overlook Park 2:00PM: The Zaniac - Alex Zerbe, master of physical comedy, juggling & magic @ The Old Liberty Theater

For this schedule or to see upcoming First Saturday events, <u>click HERE</u>

Donations needed for Friends of Ridgefield Library Spring Rummage Sale!



Doing any spring cleaning in April? The Friends of Ridgefield Library are looking for donations for a HUGE rummage sale in May! All proceeded will go towards a new Ridgefield Community Library. Help 2016 marks the Centennial of the first Migratory Bird Treaty, the cornerstone of international joint efforts to conserve birds that migrate across the United States and neighboring countries.

A total of four Migratory Bird Treaties have been signed and they have collectively facilitated a long, successful history of conserving, protecting and managing migratory bird populations and their habitats in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Russia.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, together with a collection of federal, NGO and international partners, will draw attention this spring to the incredible journey of migrating birds. Two young bird novices are embarking on a one-of-a-kind epic road trip up the Pacific Flyway from southern California to Alaska, using modern storytelling tools and techniques to engage new and diverse communities.

These ambassadors of birds will invite others to follow their journey through blogs and social media posts as they migrate up the Pacific coast. Their inspiration will be the landscapes and people of National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks and other wildlife hot spots, as well as Urban Bird Treaty Cities and other large communities. Through fun and dynamic storytelling the ambassadors will highlight extraordinary bird facts, threats and challenges birds face across urban and rural landscapes, and innovations of thought and design that are contributing to a brighter future for birds.

Enriching the journey will be a parade of wildlife experts, bird enthusiasts and everyday people sharing their insights, feelings, and perspectives about birds both locally and globally. By engaging a variety of perspectives and knowledge, the ambassadors will paint a picture of our collective understanding and appreciation of birds and emphasize opportunities to make a difference.

The focus on connecting new and diverse audiences is critical to the Service's goal of establishing public relevance for the mission-based work of the agency and its partners in conservation.

To see the project, and to find out how to support this project, including engaging with them on social media, dick HERE!

Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) - Summer Employment Opportunity

If you are between the ages of 15 and 18, and looking for summer employment, the Fish & Wildlife Service is offering Summer employment from June 20, 2016 through August 12, 2016. YCC participants will be involved in a variety of natural resource and recreation management

out if you can!

To Find out how to help and for more information, dick here!

Species Spotlight

Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura



The skies this past month have been full of winged comings and goings (not to mention rain) — restless flocks of geese, returning swallows, and the first glimpses of the majestic Turkey Vulture. Outsized only by eagles locally, vultures have wingspans of 66"-70" and, as is common to birds of prey, the females are larger than the males. Although they appear black from a distance, their feathers are actually a dark brown with light brown underneath the rear half of the wing.

Identifying vultures is made easier by their distinctive "fingers", or long feathers, spread at the tips of their wings during flight. Their wings form a V shape while soaring rather than spreading flat like hawks or eagles. You may see several of them circling high in the sky, or spot one lower to the ground in a wobbly circle as it uses its extraordinary sense of smell to pinpoint freshly-dead animals. Once a carcass is located, vultures use their sharp hooked bill to literally tear into their meal. That famous red featherless head is perfectly designed for dining on carrion. Amazingly, once a single vulture sits down to eat, it is quickly joined by others who were nowhere in sight just moments earlier.

Turkey Vultures arrive in the Northwest in spring and spend summers raising their young. They nest in rather informal-looking scraped-out piles of vegetation or in nests abandoned by herons or hawks, laying 1-3 eggs. Vultures have been known to return to the same nesting site for ten years or more

Vultures spend their days soaring over open fields and roads, roosting at night on high spots in trees or on poles. In the fall, Ridgefield skies are full of large flocks of Turkey Vultures gathering together for the fall migration southward.

Did you know: Turkey Vultures have cast-iron immune systems and do not contract maladies such as cholera, salmonella, anthrax, or botulism from the carrion they eat.

Photo by Lee Karney courtesy of US Fish & Wildlife Service.

projects. Projects may include, but are not limited to: interpretive facility maintenance, grounds maintenance, fence construction and maintenance, installing and maintaining signs, trail/road maintenance, litter removal, and invasive plant control. Crew members will participate in environmental education activities and field trips to nearby destination may be taken. All work projects are designed to help develop good work skills, work habits, and safety awareness.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 9, 2016. See application materials for more details.

APPLICATION MATERIALS: <u>Available Online Here</u> or Download Here

Paper Applications: Available at Refuge Headquarters during office hours; 28908 NW Main Ave., Ridgefield, WA.

Naturalist Led Hikes

The following listings are for Steigerwald Lake, Pierce, and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuges. Limited space is available. Sign up by calling (360) 887-4106 or emailing Josie_Finley@fws.gov.

Other groups that may be offering guided hikes are; Backyard Birdshop, Vancouver Audubon, Portland Audubon, and the Friends of the Columbia River Gorge.

Birding the Oaks to Wetland Trail at Ridgefield NWR Leader: Ron Escano

- Saturday April 16th
- Saturday May 14th

All walks meet at the trail head at 8:00 am and last about 3 hours.

Birding the Kiwa Trail at Ridgefield NWR Leader: Ron Escano

- Sunday May 1st
- Saturday May 28th
- Saturday June 11th

All walks meet at the trail head at 8:00 am and last about 3 hours. The Kiwa trail is half way around the Auto Tour Route so please allow yourself an extra 15 minutes to pay your entrance fee and make your way to the trail head.

There is no charge for these walks, however the Refuge does have an entrance fee of \$3 per vehicle or the use of an applicable federal lands pass. For more information about the fee program, and what passes are eligible, see our Entrance Fee and Passes page.

Birding the Gibbons Creek Wildlife Art Trail at Steigerwald Lake NWR

Leader: Ron Escano

- Sunday April 24th
- Saturday May 7th
- Sunday May 22nd
- Saturday June 4th

All walks meet at the trail head at 8:00 am and last about 3 hours. There is no entrance fee at Steigerwald Lake NWR.

Learn More

The Urban Wildlife Conservation Program

Ridgefield Big Paddle Festival



Date: Saturday, June 4, 2016 Time: 7:00am

Join the flotilla of kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards for a two-hour interpretive tour or a relaxing recreational one-hour tour; celebrate the excitement of outdoor recreation on the waterfront with vendor booths, live music, beer garden, food trucks and live marimba music; challenge yourself with the amazing race style scavenger hunt or jump & climb your way through the obstade course, or take a stroll on the paved path along the waterfront! End the day with a closing ceremony with a bonfire and smores.

Parking is free! No entrance fee! Activities are free! The ONLY cost is boat rental (if needed) and a \$5 registration fee for the two hour interpretive paddle. You can register online at Eventbrite or on the day of the event.





Check out the Facebook Event <u>HERE</u>
Or the City of Ridgefield Page <u>HERE</u>
for more information!



The Benefits of Membership



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is bringing nature into the city. While the four National Wildlife Refuges of the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area are great places to experience the outdoors, we also understand that we need to meet people at their "nature beginning place," be it at venue as grand as the Oregon Zoo or as local as neighborhood parks.

The Urban Wildlife Conservation Program gives us the people and the resources to be a strong partner in the community and advance some of the great projects and ideas rising from the many people and organizations in the Portland-Vancouver area that care as much about the future of the natural world as we do.

More than 80 percent of Americans now live in urban environments - a shift that has profound implications for the health and well-being of millions of people, especially our nation's youth. The children of today will soon be our nation's elected officials, business leaders, parents, and public servants. What happens when a generation that has little connection to the outdoors is suddenly in charge of taking care of nature? We hope to never have to find out.

The Urban Wildlife Conservation Program will shine a spotlight on the relevancy of conservation to the daily lives of the community through direct participation, whether it be by recreating and learning in our natural spaces or by adopting new conservation actions, big and small, right at home. Wherever people are ready to make their connection to nature and conservation, we and our partners will be there to meet them.

Check <u>here</u> to learn more about how the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex is striving to meet this challenge or visit the <u>Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge</u> Complex's website to find out more.

To find out how much of an impact refuges have on more than just wildlife and habitat all over the country, check out this Sierra Club Article here.

Thank you for visiting the refuge and supporting conservation. If you have any questions regarding activities and regulations on the refuge, call the office Monday through Friday 7:30am to 3:30 pm at 360-887-4106.

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Update & Events



Celebrating Ten Years > 2005 - 2015

In addition to receiving the monthly E-News with Refuge updates, upcoming events and wildlife news, members enjoy member- and volunteer-only events. Also, with any \$50 membership, you will receive an annual Refuge Pass, which covers entrance fees.

Don't forget to glance at the <u>Refuge calendar</u>, your one-stop shop for fun activities and volunteer opportunities!

Discounts at Local Businesses for New and Renewing Members:



Would you like to enjoy a cup of coffee from Ridgefield's Seasons after a morning hike on the Refuge? Or perhaps breakfast before you head out on the auto tour route at Pioneer Street Cafe? Lunch at Vinnie's Pizza in-between the River 'S' and Carty Units? Dinner and drinks at the Historic Sportsman's Restaurant and Lounge after a busy day of wildlife viewing? Or maybe you would like to get a discount on some supplies at Shorty's or Backyard Bird Shop?

Become a Friend or renew your membership today, and receive a member card with great discounts at these wonderful local businesses! Feel free to contact us for any questions or inquiries.









Our Sponsors

The Plankhouse Spring Opening Celebration

WHEN: April 17th, 12pm - 4pm WHERE: Cathlapotle Plankhouse 28908 NW Main Ave Ridgefield WA 98624 Events FREE with Refuge Admission



This full-scale Chinookan Plankhouse is modeled after Cathlapotle, a Native America protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Plankhouse provides the comm learn about local Native American culture just 20-minutes north of the Portland/Van

Special Events

Presentation @ Ipm - Dr. Ken Ames Presents: What's New at Cathiapotle? Lots!
The Cathiapotle village is an amazing window into what life was like on the river before contact with non
Native people. Ken Ames, Professor Teneritus at Portland State University, and one of the leading schola
in Lower Columbia River Archaeology will share the latest findings from Cathlapotle, and connect these
stories to the lands we all call home.

- Naturalist Led Hikes (Hikes meet infront of the Plankhouse) 12pm-Family Nature Hike one hour hike geared towards families 2pm-Spring Ethnobatary Hike 2 mile hike over uneawen terrain

For more info about the Plankhouse visit: http://ridgefieldfriends.org



(click the photo above to view on our website)

Upcoming Events and Exhibitions:

Portland Art Museum Presents:

Contemporary Native Photographers and the Edward Curtis Legacy

Zig Jackson, Wendy Red Star, Will Wilson FEB 6 - MAY 8, 2016

This major exhibition will feature contemporary photographs by Native American photographers Zig Jackson, Wendy Red Star, and Will Wilson in dialogue with photographs from Edward Sheriff Curtis' renowned body of work The North American Indian. This timely exhibition and associated educational programming will ask visitors to consider Curtis' continuing influence on the interpretation of Native American culture while highlighting contemporary reactions to his complex role within the history of representation of indigenous peoples. For a schedule of events, to buy tickets, and learn more dick HERE

Woven: The Art of Contemporary Native **Basketry**

March 1 - April 23, 2016 Opening Reception: Saturday, April 2, 4-7pm Workshops and artist talks Sunday April 3rd in Foster Auditorium (Clark Community College) Location: Archer Gallery, Clark Community College 1933 Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA

The exhibition features the work of 12 incredibly talented contemporary indigenous artists: Joe Feddersen, Gail Tremblay, Dawn Nichols Walden, Pat Courtney Gold, Shan Goshorn, and Bernice Akamine.

The Woven exhibit examines selected works of twelve contemporary Native artists, each with their own unique and modern approach to the age-old craft of weaving. The works in this exhibit will explore themes ranging from the



















































Lucy's Garden Winery

Ridgefield, Washington

Clark Public Utilities The Columbian Corwin Beverages Environmental Paper & Print Fred Meyer Community Rewards National Environmental **Education Foundation** National Fish & Wildlife **Foundation** Pacific NW Best Fish Co. Parr Lumber Pelican Brewing Co.

basket as a beautiful vehicle to confront difficult issues to the use of traditional techniques and materials to express 21st century ideas and influences. Portland Audubon Tidewater Transportation Umpqua Bank

Upon entering the main gallery it becomes vividly clear that this exhibition's focus is not on historic baskets. Each of the artists in this exhibit has researched, practiced and even mastered their traditional forms of basket weaving. Some use their art to tackle political and often uncomfortable social issues; others combine their traditional weaving skills with contemporary materials and imagery to create works that pay respect to tradition but also are clearly the work of a 21st century artist. For Details and More Info Click HERE

Longhouse Education and Cultural Center 20th Anniversary Exhibition

March 31- May 11, 2016

Location: Evergreen Gallery Library Opening Reception March 31st 5-7pm



To view this photo larger, click here

Questions? Contact Sarah at <u>Sarah Hill@fws.gov</u> or call (360) 887-4106

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

March was wildcard month for our habitat restoration work. From removing Indigobush (<u>Amorpha fruticosa</u>) an invasive plant species along Lake River, to putting up a natural barricade of Nootka Rose (<u>Rosa nutkana</u>) by the new bridge on the Carty Unit, staff and volunteers have been hard at work finishing up those odd projects that were sidelined in the winter. As the spring progresses we will work on maintaining our new plantings and will continue to remove invasive plant species as they reveal themselves.

Speaking of which, we're looking for volunteer invasive plant hunters! It is a great opportunity to help us maintain a natural habitat for wildlife. We are scheduling a short training in identifying the main invasive species on the Refuge, which new invasive plant hunters will be required to attend. If you have any experience with identifying plants, and want to see unique parts of the Ridgefield NWR Complex (including Pierce and Franz Lake NWRs!), email Aiden at Aiden Forsi@fws.gov!

Contact Aiden_Forsi@fws.gov for more details!

Follow the Friends on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Want regular updates on Refuge events and happenings? Follow the Friends on your favorite social media by clicking the logos below to stay connected even when you are off the Refuge.



Help the Friends and the Refuge When You Shop Online



When you link your Fred Meyer community Rewards Card to the Friends, you rewards help us earn donations from Fred Where shopping & giving unite Meyer Community Rewards. It

doesn't change your regular personal shopping and fuel rewards, but it does make a meaningful contribution to our work on the Refuge.

It's easy to sign up. Just go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name, Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, or by our non-profit number, 89824. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Friends earn a donation to support the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

You Can Also Shop and Give Online at AmazonSmile.com

Log on to smile.amazon.com, shop as you usually would and .5% of your purchase will be donated directly to the Friends. Use the special link, smile.amazon.com, with your existing user name and password.

To set up your AmazonSmile account, click this link: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-2018749. When prompted to select a charity, choose the Friends of Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge. Begin shopping as you normally would and the Friends will receive 0.5% of eligible purchases.

Thanks for being an EcoShopper and helping the Refuge!

Header Photo Credit: William Lee, 2010 Photo Contest Honorable Mention

Would you like to forward this email to a friend? Oick here.

Share This Email:

Remove my name from all future email correspondence

Address postal inquiries to: Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge PO BOX 1022 Ridgefield, WA 98642



