

May 2016

Plankhouse Season Opening Big Success!



The season kicked off with a special second Sunday event featuring a talk from archeologist Ken Ames on the latest in Cathlapotle Village archaeology. Visitors were able to view artifacts excavated from the Cathlapotle site on display, and go on guided hikes highlighted spring, as well as a family friendly hike focusing on Refuge Wildlife.

The Cathlapotle Plankhouse will now be open most weekends from 12pm-4pm. Every second Sunday of the month the Plankhouse will host a special event with speakers, guided hikes, and children's activities.

For more information on the upcoming events, visit www.ridgefieldfriends.org

For the wonderful Columbian article about the event click [HERE](#)

Image courtesy of: Steve Dipaola for the Columbian

New Faces around the Refuge

• New Administrative Officer- Valerie Sinesky:

"Hello! I'm Valerie Sinesky, the new Administrative Officer for the Ridgefield Complex and Washington Maritime Complex. I'll be tracking funding, purchasing project requirements, and supporting employees and volunteers with other various governmental matters.

Really, I'm here to help in any way that will contribute to the refuges' success. I'm excited for this position because I have a high respect of wildlife habitats. In all my endeavors as a volunteer, as a "real" world worker, and a long time career government employee, I can't think of any better place to be for my final decade of my career (to have a view of beautiful birds instead of car parking lots).

I'll be looking forward to learning about your goals and visions for this natural environment."

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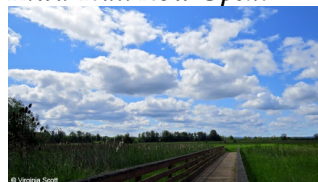
Support the Refuge
& Become a
Member

Join or Renew

Joining comes with great benefits 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.

Events

Kiwa Trail Now Open!



The Kiwa Trail on the River 'S' Unit can be reached by following the Auto Tour Route past the observation blind. The Kiwa Trail is open from May 1 to September 30 during daylight hours. The trail offers a generally level grade and is constructed of compacted gravel and boardwalks. The trail is well suited for wheelchairs, wheeled walkers, and baby

- **New Security Officer- Ryan Wagner:**

Ryan Wagner has been selected to be the first Federal Wildlife Officer in the Portland-Vancouver metro area.

The position is under the direction of the Ridgefield Complex but offers Ryan the opportunity to develop and implement a new Law Enforcement Program in one of the most popular urban areas on the west coast. His area of responsibility will cover two Complexes (Ridgefield and Tualatin) totaling 6 Refuges, each with its own unique circumstances and needs.

Ryan brings a thorough knowledge of developing and maintaining positive working relationships with local, county, state and federal agencies as well as experience in working on and around urban national wildlife refuges. He steps into the SWO position from a federal law enforcement officer position held at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina where he has served in that capacity since 2010. Prior to that, Ryan worked at "Ding" Darling NWR in Sanibel, Florida as the law enforcement officer. These refuges are also urban in nature and have given Ryan the knowledge and experience in dealing with resource enforcement and developing excellent communication skills with an urban public, essential components for this new position.

The position will be based at Steigerwald Lake NWR and Ryan will report to duty on June 13, 2016.

- **Cultural Education Specialist for the Cathlapotle Plankhouse- Juliet McGraw:**

Juliet's educational background is that of an archaeologist with an applied anthropological approach, believing that research is only as good as it is helpful to the indigenous populations it represents.

She earned her BA in Anthropology at WSU Vancouver in 2008. She is currently taking a break from MA studies where her research was focused on plant resources of Plankhouse peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast and is already enjoying the expansion of that knowledge to the Peoples of the Lower Columbia River.

One of the things that Juliet is most excited about is the opportunity to combine skill sets developed in her previous career in Student Development and Leadership with her academic passions of archaeobotany and the meaning of place within the landscape.

She thoroughly enjoys connecting to people to one another and is looking forward to connecting people from all walks of life to the Ridgefield NWR and the Cathlapotle Plankhouse.

Native Nonnative Project

strollers.

Photo Credit: Virginia Scott

First Saturday: May Day Festival

Saturday, May 7, 2016 - 8:00am
Events start at 6:00pm Friday!



Join us to usher in a fresh new season complete with Maypole dance, plant sale, photo contest, Farmer's Market, outdoor games, scavenger hunt, art, food, music and more. Everyone is welcome!

Festivities for May begin 6:00PM on Friday, May 6, with an opening reception for the Ridgefield Arts Association Annual Spring Art Fair.

The Saturday schedule begins bright and early:
8:00 AM - Garden Club Plant Sale opens at the Bus Barn
9:00 AM - Overlook Park Festivities:

- Farmer's Market Season Grand Opening
- Outdoor Games like croquet, bocce ball, volleyball, badminton
- A plank challenge sponsored by Tailored Fitness -- with fitness & training prizes
- Pick up your scavenger hunt instructions

9:00 AM - Ridgefield Arts Association Annual Art Fair & Sale at the Community Center with interactive arts, kids activities, photo booth and art displays.

10:00 AM - Downtown merchants open with contests, raffles, special activities, music, sidewalk sales, unique menu items, and more!

- Make a May Basket @ Ridgefield Community Library
- Create a flower crown @ A Merry Heart Events
- Paint & plant a Mother's Day flower pot @ Ridgefield Floral

11:00 AM - Live Music begins at Overlook Park

11:00 AM - Beer Garden and outdoor BBQ @ Sportsman's Steakhouse

11:30 AM - First Saturday One Year Anniversary celebration @ Overlook Park featuring Pop Warner cheerleaders, a Maypole Dance by the Ridgefield High School cheerleaders and a cupcake toast.

6:00 PM - Live Chalk Art @ Koi Pond Cellars

7:30 PM - May Day Rock Show featuring Noise Complaint & Old Liberty Theater



The purpose of Native Nonnative is to invoke curiosity and begin to define what it means to a native or nonnative species to humans. The cities and towns the postcards are sent to will be mapped out with the idea that the spreading of knowledge across perceived boundaries is similar to the spread of species. You are encouraged to respond to the postcards with writing, artwork, photos (professional to selfies...), videos, or other expressive ways. Responses will be chosen and posted to the website.

The project steps:

1. Sign up for super awesome postcards
2. Receive them in the mail
3. Read about the featured species and think...
4. Make something creative and fun!
5. Send to <http://www.nativenonnative.org/> (by email or flying pig)

Sign up [HERE](#) for your postcard and to participate, feel free to share with your friends!

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, then 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: sarah_hill@fws.gov (360) 887-4106

Online Store Now Open!

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge are proud

Stay the day if you can - merchants and eateries will be open!

For more images and info click [HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE: June Ridgefield First Saturday: 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 obstacle 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.

<p>REGISTRATION FORM For Interpretive Paddle</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>City: _____</p> <p>State: _____</p> <p>Zip: _____</p> <p>Age: _____</p> <p>Gender: _____</p> <p>How did you hear about this event? _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>	<p>SCHEDULE OF EVENTS</p> <p>7:00 Registration & Sign-up</p> <p>8:00 Kayak & Canoe Rental</p> <p>8:30 Interpretive Paddle</p> <p>9:30 Stand-up Paddleboard</p> <p>10:30 Beer Garden</p> <p>11:00 Live Music</p> <p>12:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:00 Obstacle Course</p> <p>2:00 Scavenger Hunt</p> <p>3:00 Race</p> <p>4:00 Closing Ceremony</p> <p>4:30 Bonfire & S'mores</p>	<p>57th Anniversary Big Paddle Festival June 4, 2016 7:00 AM</p> <p>WATERFRONT POINT OF RIDGEFIELD 8 WEST HILL STREET RIDGEFIELD, WA 98642</p> <p><i>A National Trails Day event</i></p> <p>www.ridgefieldwa.com</p>
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<p>Choose an Interpretive OR Recreational Paddle</p> <p>Interpretive Paddle: \$5 Recreational Paddle: \$5</p> <p>OBSTACLE COURSE</p> <p>Challenge the excitement of obstacle course with our annual obstacle course. Includes the annual challenge course, a fun-filled festival atmosphere!</p>	<p>Relaxing Community with Obstacle Course & Race</p> <p>PADDLE'S VILLAGE ON THE WATERFRONT</p> <p>Fun-filled festival atmosphere!</p>	<p>Totally Awesome Scavenger Challenge</p> <p>Fun-filled festival atmosphere!</p>
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Check out the Facebook Event [HERE](#)
Or the City of Ridgefield Page [HERE](#)
for more information!

to announce the opening of a new webstore! Now you can order our 50th Anniversary Gear- including the Pelican Brewing Company 50th Anniversary T-shirt and Pint Glass, as well as our Chinookan Steller's Jay T-shirt, all online!



Check out our [Shop](#) for links to the store and more info, or click [HERE](#) to go directly to the store!

Proceeds help support our unique education and restoration programs at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge!

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 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: [Available Online Here](#) 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

Species Spotlight

Pacific or Western Trillium
Trillium ovatum



Walking in northwestern woods in the springtime feels a little like entering Jurassic Park — giant horsetails, bracken, ferns, devil's club and other prehistoric-looking plants are bursting into leaf and bloom all along the trails. Among the riot of green this time of year you'll also find the simple yet elegant trillium with its repeating motif of threes; leaves, petals, and sepals.

Western trillium is found in forested areas of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Montana, British Columbia, and Alberta. They bloom between March and June. The flowers, which sit on an upright stalk, open a pure white with fuzzy yellow stamens. The flowers age to pinks, reds and purples until the petals drop. They usually appear in drifts in low to mid-elevation moist forests, a sign of their interconnected and creeping rootstocks, or rhizomes, which send up new shoots. The oval, pointed leaves form a distinctive whorl of three under the flower. Plant stalks typically reach 12 to 18 inches in height.

Trilliums also develop a distinctive egg-like green seed pod capsule (hence the "ovatum" in the name) filled with as many as 150 seeds. These pods are oil-rich and thus a favorite food for ants, yellow jackets, and deer. Ants are reputed to disperse as much as 30% of the seeds of spring-flowering plants in the dark woods, which helps relocate them to more auspicious places to start new plants.

Native peoples used an extract of trillium root as an eye medicine. They also made poultices to treat skin ailments.

Did you know: Trilliums are widely known as "wake-robins" because they bloom around the time robins return in the spring.

Photo by Trink Schurian



Birding Enthusiasts

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](#)

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



Take Mom out for a talk and walk at
the Cathlapotle Plankhouse at the
Refuge
this Mother's Day!

1pm "Where the Women Are: Gender and Power in the
Archaeological Record of the Pacific Northwest

Despite the wealth of data on gender division of labor in indigenous groups of the 19th-20th centuries, archaeological research on gender is rare. Activities traditionally associated with women such as plant gathering, cooking, basketry, and mat making remain poorly understood. In this presentation



See what is being seen at the refuge this week at our [Weekly Sightings](#) page, or get a summary of the year's sightings so far on the [2016 Sightings](#) page.

The Benefits of Membership

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 [Refuge calendar](#), 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.

Donate



Our Sponsors

WSU doctoral student, Tiffany Fulkerson, will discuss how the traditional roles of Native women in Pacific Northwest helped maintain gender equality and explore evidence of women's labor in the archaeological record.

2pm: Ethnobotany Hike

Join our speaker and a Refuge Naturalist for a walk on the Oaks to Wetlands Trail. (2 mile hike on moderately uneven terrain.)

12 - 4pm: Plankhouse Tours and Kid's Activities ongoing throughout the event.

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Mothers Day Celebration at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge



WHEN: May 8th, 12pm - 4pm
WHERE: Cathlapotle Plankhouse
 28998 NW Main Ave
 Ridgefield WA 98624
Events FREE with Refuge Admission

Join Us
 Take Mom for a walk and a talk at the Plankhouse this Mother's Day

Special Presentation @ 1:00pm

Where the Women Are: Gender and Power in the Archaeological Record of the Pacific Northwest
 Despite the wealth of data on gender division of labor in indigenous groups of the 19th-20th centuries, archaeological research on gender is rare. Activities traditionally associated with women such as plant gathering, cooking, basketry, and mat making remain poorly understood. In this presentation WSU doctoral student, Tiffany Fulkerson, will discuss how the traditional roles of Native women in Pacific Northwest helped maintain gender equality and explore evidence of women's labor in the archaeological record.

Ethnobotany Hike @ 2:00pm
 Join our speaker and a Refuge Naturalist for a walk on the Oaks to Wetlands Trail and discover the plants that are connected to the lives of women on the Lower Columbia. (Hikes meet in front of the Plankhouse, approximately 2 mile hike on uneven terrain)

Plankhouse Tours and Kid's Activities ongoing throughout the event.

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

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this event for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodations needs to Sarah Hill, 360-887-4130, Sarah_Hill@fws.gov, TTY 800-877-8339 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

(Click this poster for a link to 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 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



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

Longhouse Education and Cultural Center
20th Anniversary Exhibition

**Sgw'igial?txw at 20:
Building Upon the Past,
Visioning Into the Future**

March 31 - May 11, 2016

Opening Reception March 31st 5-7pm AT THE Evergreen Gallery LIBRARY 2204
Artist Lecture April 26th 5-7pm



20 YEARS
The Longhouse Education and Cultural Center
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, WA 98505
(360)865-4178
genice@evergreen.edu
evergreen@longhouse
https://www.evergreen.edu/gallery

Artist List:
Koyell Akwala, Ivy Marie Andrade, Natalie Ball, Rick Barlow, Norwin Begaye, Wesley Bennett, Alison Bremner, Brittany Britton, Kelly Church, Pat Courtney Gold, Peg Deam, Jim Demme, Tiffie Ditt, Ed Emond, Vickie Era-Pankretz, Dennis Emerson, Colie Farrell-Smith, Cary Feddersen, Joe Feddersen, Ryan Feddersen, Candice Starr Fields, Malynn Foster, Don Frisco, Sean Gallagher, John Garcia, Erin Genta, Heather Genta, Laura Grabhorn, Lyonel Grant, Cheryl Gruniose, Tara Gunzape, Clifton Guthrie, Sara Highheagle, Gabriel Highheagle, Heidi Highheagle, Vales Highheagle, Michael Holloman, Debora Ivall, Misty Kalama-Archer, Taylor Kise, Tina Kuckian-Wiers, Paul Larier, Malakina Lawless, Selena Lawrence, Libby Logan, Dakota MacCallay, Tracy MacCallay, Alexander McCarty, Larry Michael, Debra Messer, Ramon Murillo, Eliza Naranjo-Morse, Nora Naranjo-Morse, Edwenna Nohkosa, Hollis Old Peter, Patsy Peterson Sr., Yvonne Peterson, Lison Pitt, Patti Puhni, Helen Rasmussen, Richard Rowland, Joe Seymour, Sara Steinhorn, Andrea Wilbur-Siga, John Tawana Smith, Jacklyn Smith, Joan Stephens-Moore, Channing Taha, Barbara Tahurt, Tawewa Tahurt, Loraine Verbeunt, Jeffrey Veragege, Dawn Watson, Charlene Weiland, Terri White, Melissa Yancey, Shirda Younker

Pelican Brewing Co.
Portland Audubon
Tidewater Transportation
Umpqua Bank

To view this photo larger, click [here](#)

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

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

What's in bloom around you? At the Carty Unit we have seen our camas (*Camassia ssp.*) flowers come and go, ready to seed and hopefully establish a new "sea of blue" for modern explorers to enjoy. Lupine (*Lupinus ssp.*) is sending out its tall stems of purple flowers for all to enjoy, Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*) is showing its light pink bells, and the oaks (*Quercus garryana*) have gone from bare to covered in leaves in what seems like less than a week. With the River 'S' unit and Kiwa Trail now open for walking, come see what you can find nestled beneath the trees!

Speaking of finding plants, we are planning on running our Invasive Plant Hunter training the week of **May 16 - May 20**, with a training date at Ridgefield as well as a training date at the Gorge Refuges. Please email Keith.Rutz@fws.gov for more information! Also look out for information on our Ricefield Bulrush volunteer events, starting in June. We are gearing up for another busy summer, and we hope to see you out on the Refuge soon!

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 Rewards Card to the Friends, you help us earn donations from Fred 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

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Ridgefield, WA 98642
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