

Please add [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) to your address book or safe senders list.

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# The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

***The latest updates | May, 2019***



## Thank you!

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge want to thank all of you who have used our Amazon Wishlist to help support our Habitat Restoration Programs! We have received at least one of everything currently on our list, and we are so thankful! More items will be added as activities ramp up into the summer season, and check back for updates and item needs for other programs, coming soon. [Check out our current list here](#) to get started!



## Notice!

**River 'S' Unit & Auto Tour Emergency Closure**  
**The River 'S' Auto Tour will be closed for construction Saturday, May 4th, all day.**

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## Seasonal Trails Open May 1st!



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge seasonal trails open officially May 1st! Since you have to wait until the River 'S' Unit is open on the weekends to visit the Kiwa Trail (**Note: the River 'S' Unit & Auto Tour, including the Kiwa Trail, will be closed Saturday, May 4th for emergency construction**), you can celebrate the start of the season on the Carty Lake Trail on the Carty Unit, and walk to the Port and back. Or, for the first official time, park and pay at the Port of Ridgefield, and walk to the Refuge! [Get directions to the different units here](#). Stay up to date on what is open and what is closed before you go by [checking](#)

[here](#).

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## Friends Board Seeking Committee Members

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is seeking community members to join our committees! If you are interested in helping out the Friends but don't have time to commit to being a board member, this is a great way to get involved. Maybe you have a talent you want to share, or want to help give the Friends a little extra support - whatever the reason, we are happy to have

you join us!

**We are looking for support in these committees:**

- Finance
- Grants
- Fundraising
- BirdFest Committee



Please email [alix@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:alix@ridgefieldfriends.org) with your interest!

## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events

### River 'S' and Trail Closures

Stay up-to-date on all the projects going on this year at the official [Refuge 20/20 website](http://Refuge2020.org), where all the projects at Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake NWR's are explained. More info added all the time - check back for updates and more!



**Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Improvements**  
*2019 Schedule of Temporary Disruptions*

**Auto Tour Bridge Replacement**  
Where: Ridgefield NWR River S Unit  
When: March 18, 2019 through July, 2020  
What: The bridge over Lake River to the Auto Tour Route will be closed Monday through Friday, re-opening on the weekends during construction of a new two-lane bridge.

**Oak Woodland Restoration**  
Where: Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit  
When: March 18, 2019 until approx. June 2019  
What: The Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail, north of the Oak Overlook, will be closed during coniferous tree removal. The trail may remain closed until June for safety monitoring of falling debris.

**Main Street Sidewalk Extension**  
Where: Main Street near Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit  
When: March to October 2019  
What: Main Street will be reduced to one lane at Gee Creek starting March 2019. From July to August both lanes will be closed at Gee Creek and a detour will be in place to access the Refuge.

**Planning a visit? check ahead**

**YOUR #1 INFO RESOURCE**  
[www.refuge2020.info](http://www.refuge2020.info)

**ALSO CHECK OUT**  
[facebook.com/Portland-VancouverNationalWildlifeRefuges](https://facebook.com/Portland-VancouverNationalWildlifeRefuges)  
[fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield](http://fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield)  
[fws.gov/refuge/Steigerwald\\_Lake](http://fws.gov/refuge/Steigerwald_Lake)

**Currently:**

- The River 'S' Unit and Auto Tour Route (1071 S Hillhurst Rd.) are closed Monday-Friday for bridge construction, open Saturdays and Sundays until summer 2020.

- The Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail (28908 NW Main Ave.), starting at the end of the paved section will be closed for our Oak Restoration Project until June 2019.

- The Main Street Extension project may impede traffic to the Carty Unit and the Refuge office (28908 NW Main Ave) - be aware that there may be wait times or single lane traffic at times.

Please contact the Refuge Office at (360) 887-4106 during regular business hours (M-F, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM) for more information.

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 7:30 am to 3:30 pm at 360-887-4106.

(click flyer to view larger or download)

## REFUGE 2020

Learn more about these projects at [www.refuge2020.info](http://www.refuge2020.info)



Refuge 20/20 is a collaborative effort of The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Our purpose is to keep you informed about the many wildlife habitat and public access improvements that will be completed or underway by the year 2020 at Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuges.

## Bird Walks

### Birding at Ridgefield NWR

The following hikes are led by Ron Escano. They start at 8am at the respective trail head and last two to three hours. These hikes are

free, however you are required to pay the Refuge \$3 daily entrance fee (free with Federal Lands Pass or Refuge Annual Pass). Please bring cash or applicable pass and allow yourself an extra 5 minutes to register at the self service kiosk. [Click here](#) for more information about passes and fees at Ridgefield NWR. (click flyer to view larger or download)

**Oaks to Wetlands Trail on the Carty Unit**  
Walks will only utilize the open portions of the Oaks to Wetlands trail.

**Saturday, May 11**

**Saturday, June 1**

**Kiwa Trail on the River 'S' Unit**

**Saturday, May 4**

**Saturday, May 25**

**Saturday, June 15**

**Birding at Steigerwald Lake NWR**

Meet at the Gibbons Creek Trail head off SR-14 at the time listed. Walks last two to three hours. There is no entrance fee at Steigerwald.

Hikes led by Ron Escano, starting at 8:00 AM

**Saturday, May 18**

**Saturday, June 8**

Hikes led by Ken Pitts, starting at 8:00 AM

**Saturday, May 11**

**Saturday, May 25**

Hike led by Ken Pitts, starting at 7:00 AM

**Saturday, June 22**

**Saturday, July 13**

**Saturday, July 27**

**Saturday, Aug 10**

**Saturday, Aug 24**

[Click here to learn more about the Steigerwald Lake Refuge and trail.](#)



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## BIRD WALKS

AT RIDGEFIELD NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

### UPCOMING DATES

The following hikes are led by Ron Escano & Ken Pitts. They start at 8 AM at the respective trail head and last two to three hours.

While these guided walks are free, the entrance fee to Ridgefield NWR of \$3.00 (adult) per day does apply. Steigerwald Lake NWR has no day-use fee. Space is limited.

To Register, email [Mesha\\_Wood@fws.gov](mailto:Mesha_Wood@fws.gov) or call Ridgefield Office at 360-887-4106

Please Note: The trail beyond the Oak Overlook will be closed while oak restoration work is completed during these walks.

RIDGEFIELD NWR Oaks to Wetlands Trail (Carty Unit off Hwy 10)	STEIGERWALD LAKE NWR Gibbons Creek Wildlife
Birding with Ron Escano: - May 11 - June 1	Art Trail off SR-14 Birding with Ron Escano: - March 25 - April 27 - May 18 - June 8
Kiwa Trail (River 'S' Unit, off Hillhurst)	Gibbons Creek Wildlife Art Trail off SR-14 Birding with Ken Pitts: - March 30 - April 13 - May 11 - May 25

Open to the public by the George Eastman Company and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex. 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 Mesha.Wood, Mesha.Wood@fws.gov, 360-887-4106, TDD 360-887-4103 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

[www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield)

## From the Contact Station

### What's Up

It has been an interesting couple of weeks down at the contact station. We have a weekend crew of four. Terri and Robert alternate Saturday mornings, while Annette is there on Saturday afternoons. Susan (that is me) covers Sundays from about 10 to 3 or maybe 9 to 5, or as much as I can do. We are there to help you enjoy the refuge the best you can during this time of disruption. Please stop to say hello or ask any questions you might have. We love to hear your stories about your experiences on the refuge. During the construction, Roger is doing his best to keep up the bird sightings list which he posts in the display case and on the website. If you spot something unusual, please do add it to the board so others may find it too.



It was a very busy April, probably due to the changes...[Keep Reading...](#)

-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer & Board Past President

## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events

### Lifeways & Landscapes Programs

#### Spring Opening - This Weekend, May 4th & 5th!



The Cathlapotle Plankhouse is ready to receive visitors. Please join us opening weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 4-5th, for docent-led or self-guided tours in the House. The Carty Lake Trail is now open!!! This means you can



walk to the port and back from the Refuge Carty Unit, or park and pay at the Port of Ridgefield and walk to the Cathlapotle Plankhouse and back!

### Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday Series



Join us for the first Second Sunday event of the Season, Sunday, May 12th, from noon to 4pm! This month's theme is Indigenous Resilience & Resurgence, and we hope you join us!

As always, there will be activities and docents available from 12-4pm, as well as a special Ethnobotany walk at 2:30pm.

Download this flyer to save the date for this fun and educational event!

(click flyer to view larger or download)

### Remembering Dr. Kenneth Ames



The first time I heard the name Dr. Kenneth Ames was during my undergraduate coursework at WSUV. I enrolled in an ethnoarchaeology class, led by Dr. Cameron Smith. During a routine office consultation regarding my final project for the semester, we got on the subject of social organization. Noting my interest in how large communities organize themselves, Dr. Smith offered to connect me with his own advisor, and fellow PSU faculty member, Ken Ames. I declined, not seeing how my research interests in Mesoamerica overlapped or connected with Dr. Ames expertise in Pacific Northwest social organization. This decision was right for me at the time, but with 20/20 hindsight, I

wish I had taken the opportunity to meet Dr. Ames sooner...Keep reading...



Preserve America is a national initiative in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the U.S. Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Education; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; and the President's Council on

Environmental Quality.

## Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

### Spring All Over

While parts of the Refuge are closed for construction on the River 'S' Bridge and the Oak Restoration, we are focusing new recruitment efforts on other refuges in the complex, such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Work Parties at Steigerwald Lake NWR. [Sign up to help the Stewards here.](#)

Wednesday work parties will be limited due to the River 'S' Unit bridge construction, so stay tuned to our website and social media pages to find opportunities to volunteer at Ridgefield NWR on Saturdays. Wednesday work parties will resume in June.

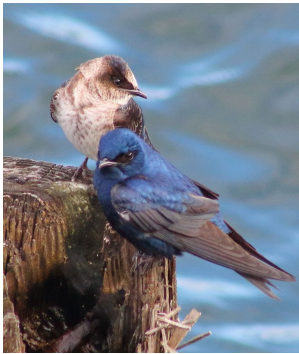


Now you can sign up to volunteer on our website!  
[Check it out by clicking here!](#)

General Habitat Questions? Contact [Keith Rutz](#) or [contact us](#) for more information.

## Species Spotlight

### Purple Martin *Progne subis*



Many of you may have noticed the strange looking pole full of plastic gourds that went up this last month at both Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuges. These gourds are specifically for housing Purple Martins.

We are lucky to see them at all on the West Coast, as they are much more common on the East side of the country, especially the Southeast. A majority of them migrate primarily to the Gulf Coast in the late summer through the winter. They travel long distances (up to 5000 miles each way, each year) at a leisurely pace - flying only during the day and foraging as they go... [Keep Reading...](#)

## Seeking Business Alliance Members

As a member of the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Business Alliance, you invest in one of our urban metropolitan area's most unique and diverse natural and cultural resources. [Click here to find out more!](#)

## Calling All Volunteers!

### Volunteer Opportunities:

#### Refuge and Trail Greeters

Over 120,000 visitors flock to the refuge annually to enjoy nature through participation in wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, cultural interpretation, hunting, and fishing. Volunteers help to make their experiences

### Cathlapotle Plankhouse

The Cathlapotle Plankhouse draws thousands of visitors to the Refuge each year. Help share the legacy of the Indigenous people who have tended to this place since time immemorial as a Plankhouse Docent or Cultural Educator. Field trips take place during the weekdays. Docents staff the house on weekends from April - September.

***To get on the list for more information as it comes out, email [RidgefieldEducation@fws.gov](mailto:RidgefieldEducation@fws.gov) with the subject line "New Plankhouse Volunteer"***

meaningful. Share your enthusiasm for nature and make the Refuge a welcoming place for people walking our trails, stopping at the Visitor Contact Station and driving the AutoTour.

**Volunteers naturalists needed to walk trails and teach people about what they can see and enjoy at the Refuge this spring and summer!**

If you are interested email

RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov to be put on the update list for a late spring training.

### Support the Friends

Help us inspire people to support the Refuge! Whether you help us out during BirdFest & Bluegrass in October by giving directions or helping set up, or by providing outreach for what the Friends do, or joining the board or a committee, every little bit helps.

Now you can sign up to volunteer easily on our website!

[Check it out by clicking here!](#)

[Learn more about volunteering at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge here](#)

### Birding Enthusiasts



Check out what species are being seen on the Refuge [here](#).

[Donate](#)

### Ridgefield First Saturday: May Day Spring Festival

May 4, 2019



It is the Anniversary of First Saturday!! Join us to usher in a fresh new season complete with Maypole dance, Farmer's Market season grand opening, outdoor games, scavenger hunt, art, food and more!

The Ridgefield Art Association is hosting

its annual art fair & sale at Overlook Park. The Garden Club will also hold its annual plant sale at the Ridgefield School District Maintenance Building.

[Full Schedule Here](#)

### Benefits of Membership



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? 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 (5% off a meal with member card!)? Or maybe you would like to get a discount on some supplies at Shorty's or Backyard Bird Shop? How about a night out at Ilani? Find out more, 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.

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge promote the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native and endangered birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest. Visit us on the web at [www.ridgefieldfriends.org](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org)

## Support the Friends While You Shop



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 click here.](#) You can search for us by our name, Friends of Ridgefield NWR, or by our non-profit number, PK822.

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping earn a donation to support the Friends and Ridgefield NWR. If you do not have a Rewards Card, ask at the Customer Service desk of any FM store.



Log on to smile.amazon.com and shop as you usually would - .5% of your purchase will be donated directly to the Friends! Use the link with your existing user name and password. When prompted to select a charity, choose the Friends of Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge.



Giving Assistant makes it easy to donate to Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge! Simply shop online, earn cash back, and donate as much as 30% of your purchase price - Giving Assistant facilitates the whole process. Now, you can help change the world for free while saving money at over 3,000 popular online retailers like Home Depot, ULTA, and Macy's! [Start HERE!](#) Thanks for being an EcoShopper and helping the Refuge!

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.



## Sponsors

### Business Alliance Members:



### In-kind Support:



Lucy's Garden  
Winery  
Ridgefield, Washington

### BirdFest & Bluegrass:





**Granting Organizations & Partners:**



Header Photo Credit: Sandra Michaelis, 2nd Place Plant Category, 2018 Refuge Photo Contest

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