



September 2017

## BirdFest & Bluegrass 2017!

Click the flier below for the schedule below and on our website to plan your weekend, sign up for events, buy the button with benefits, and much more!

(There is lots to do and see, and some things require pre-registration and payment, please read descriptions carefully)

Click the poster to be taken to our website!

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge presents:



**BirdFest™ & Bluegrass**  
in Ridgefield, WA

October 6-8, 2017  
Bluegrass Picker's Festival

"Button with Benefits!"  
Wear your button and get free ice cream from Zebrun's, a raffle ticket at the festival, and automatic entry into bluegrass locations, the keynote presentation, and other events around town!



**Purchase the 2017 commemorative button for \$5**

All proceeds support Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge  
Buttons for sale at supporting Ridgefield businesses, listed at [www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org)  
For more information: [www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org)

Thank you to the businesses and organizations who help to make BirdFest & Bluegrass possible!



## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday Event

(click poster to view larger or download)

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Support the Refuge & Become a Member

Join or Renew

Check out the Benefits of Membership below to find out more.



The Historic **Sportsman's** Steak House & Saloon

Enjoy 5% off at the Sportsman's Steakhouse and Saloon in Historic Downtown Ridgefield with your member card!

## Events

[Cathlapotle Plankhouse September Second Sunday](#)



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



**CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE**  
*Enjoy the Refuge for Family Friendly Fun*

**September 10 | 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**  
On the Carty Unit at Ridgefield NWR, Refuge entrance fee applies

Second Sunday at the Plankhouse: Indigenous Response to Climate Change

**12-4:00 pm – Cathlapotle Plankhouse Tours and Family Activities**

**1:00 PM – Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Climate Change**  
Dr. Samantha Chisholm Hatfield (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon) will offer new perspectives on how Traditional Ecological Knowledge can be recognized and applied to climate change response in the Pacific Northwest.

**12:00 pm – Family Nature Stroll**  
Families and little ones will enjoy an easy walk with environmental educator, Roland Begin. Along the way, participate in a Nature Hunt, that will end at a large ancestral oak tree.

**2:30 PM – From Oak Balds to Erratics**  
The Ridgefield NWR is home to a fascinating geologic story. Join environmental educator and amateur geologist, Roland Begin, on an extended hike on the Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail.

Event sponsored by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners, the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. 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 Janet McGraw, JJanet\_McGraw@fws.gov, 509-827-4146, TTY 800-877-8339 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

[www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/Cathlapotle\\_Plankhouse](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/Cathlapotle_Plankhouse)

We hope to see you there!

## Calling all Vendors!

Want to be a vendor at BirdFest & Bluegrass 2017?



BirdFest is our local celebration of the return of the Sandhill Cranes to the Refuge and of the natural and cultural wealth

of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

There will be events going on in town all weekend: Sandhill Crane tours, guided nature and bird walks, children's activities, kayak tours, Chinookan Plankhouse tours, naturalist workshops, and the Birder's Marketplace, featuring artists who concentrate on wildlife and/or nature themes.

BirdFest attracts 3,000 - 5,000 people annually. We have a lot to celebrate, as this is our 18th annual festival. We expect this event to be extremely well-attended!

**Deadline for space reservation has been extended to September 15th, 2017**

[Click Here for More Information](#)

## BirdFest & Bluegrass 2017 Commemorative Buttons on Sale!

Find out where you can purchase these amazing buttons featuring our bird of the year, the Turkey Vulture! All proceeds help to support this event as well as the unique habitat and education

## Volunteers Wanted!

Habitat restoration is an ongoing job, and someone's gotta do it! Restoration can be anything from tree watering, bulrush pulling, beaver cages, and more! Check out the Habitat section below for more details, or email [Keith\\_Rutz@fws.gov](mailto:Keith_Rutz@fws.gov) to sign up!

To become an education or naturalist volunteer, and help with school groups, hikes, walks and more, contact [RidgefieldVolunteer@FWS.gov](mailto:RidgefieldVolunteer@FWS.gov) or [Plankhouse@gmail.com](mailto:Plankhouse@gmail.com)

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

[Contact us](#) to update your contact info at any time, or you can always sign up for our E-newsletters in our [Newsletter sign-up boxes](#) located in the sidebar of any page on our website!

## 2017 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest



**Submissions due by September 5th!** Submit your favorite nature images taken within the boundaries of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge to the 11th Annual 2017 photography competition! [Find out more...](#)

## Ridgefield First Saturday: Heritage Day & Wild Wild West

September 2nd, 2017 9am-4pm



It's a step back in time, so slap on your spurs and saddle up your pony, then gallop downtown and revel in western-themed, historical fun, arts & crafts, a guided kayak paddle, and more!

[For a schedule of events and more click here!](#)





This is an exciting time of year. Birds are moving south after, we hope, successful nesting seasons. Watch for shorebirds coming through. Look at muddy edges where they will be probing for food. Long-billed Dowitchers and Greater Yellowlegs have been seen already. You never know what might show up on any given day. [Keep Reading...](#)



Unlike most herons, the Green Heron is a short and stocky bird with short legs and broad, rounded wings. If you're lucky enough to get a close-up peek, it's a very handsome bird with an iridescent green back, deep chestnut upper body, and an intimidating long, dagger-like bill. [Keep Reading...](#)

Photo By: Angie Vogel

## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



### Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

#### River 'S' Closures in September



The Refuge has received Emergency Funding to repair the landslide along the River 'S' entrance road that occurred last winter. This repair is anticipated to last one week and will require the total

closure of the road to the public. The actual date of construction is still being refined. But the project should occur in September or early October (not including BirdFest weekend). Once the date is confirmed, it will be promptly announced on website of the Friends and Refuge. The Carty Unit will remain open as always.

#### More Projected Closures:

The Refuge is completing several projects on the River 'S' Unit in September. So anticipate personnel and equipment working in closed areas of the Refuge. Projects include.....

- 1) Construction of a levee across South Big Lake to increase flexibility in allowing extended drawdown and flooded periods that are necessary for wetland plant diversity and productivity.
- 2) Construction of a water line on the north end of River 'S' to allow more efficient pumping into multiple wetlands.
- 3) Fence installation in the middle of the tour route to exclude cattle from of the East Drain Ditch

The Carty Unit will remain open as always.

*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

### Help Represent the Friends & the Refuge at Community Outreach events!

We are looking for a few dedicated volunteers who love the refuge and would like to help others discover what makes this place special. [Learn More...](#)



### Birding Enthusiasts



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 [2017 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. Enjoy 5% off at the Sportsman's Steakhouse and Saloon in Historic Downtown Ridgefield with your member card!





## CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE

Celebrating Ten Years ▶ 2005 - 2015



The Plankhouse will be open Saturdays and Sundays 12:00PM - 4:00PM, until the end of September! So stop by and say hello while you can!

### Second Sundays at the Plankhouse!

"Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Climate Change" is the Second Sunday Event for September, this is the last one before BirdFest! Every [Check out our website for more info!](#)

Questions? Contact Juliet at [Juliet\\_McGraw@fws.gov](mailto:Juliet_McGraw@fws.gov) or call (360) 887-4106

## Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

### Summer into Fall

Summer volunteering on the Refuge is spent mostly in our wetlands. Folks form a line with tools and trash bags at the ready and move purposely back and forth from one habitat edge to the other.

Ricefield bulrush is a very distinctive plant and easy to see in the open, but requires a keen eye and persistence when vegetation is thick. Lucky for us we have dedicated volunteers that return week after week with determination and a well-developed prey image. We started in June wading through shin deep water...

[Keep Reading for more about a recent fence removal, upcoming volunteer event plans and more!...](#)



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

Camas Habitat Restoration Project

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 (5% off with member card!)? 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

A 1200 square foot area was cleared and covered in preparation for a native plant habitat restoration project. A group of students from Clark College secured a donation of 100 camas bulbs from Scholls Valley Nursery and prepped the site in early June for a fall planting. We need help both purchasing more bulbs, and planting them! [Find out more here!](#)



(click this poster to view larger and download)

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# HABITAT RESTORATION

**9:00 AM - 12:30 PM**  
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at River 'S' Unit of the Refuge (1701 Hillhurst Rd, Ridgefield, WA)

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge invites you to join us in the field this summer, and help make a difference. We will be searching for and removing Ricefield Bulrush.

All work days are rain or shine. Wear waterproof boots and dress for the weather. Gloves, snacks, and drinks will be provided to keep you fueled.

Arrive early to sign volunteer paperwork. Parent/Guardian signature required for those under 18.

**JULY**  
Wednesdays - 5,12,19, & 26  
Saturdays - 1,8,15,22, & 29

**AUGUST**  
Wednesdays - 2,9,16,23, & 30  
Saturdays - 5,12,19, & 26

**SEPTEMBER**  
Wednesday - 6 & Saturdays - 2 & 9

For more information and to sign up email: [Sean\\_Davis@fws.gov](mailto:Sean_Davis@fws.gov)

Event hosted by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners, the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards. 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 Jose Finley, 360.867.4106, Jose.Finley@fws.gov, TTY: 800.527.6539 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

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

Questions? Contact [Keith\\_Rutz@fws.gov](mailto:Keith_Rutz@fws.gov) for more information

## Summer is almost over at the Refuge!

Don't forget that the Kiwa Trail closes for the season at the end of September, with BirdFest weekend being your last chance until next spring! Come on down and enjoy the beautiful weather in a beautiful place!

1. **Water:** Make sure to bring water with you whether you are planning a long or a short visit, it is going to be a hot summer and there is no access to drinking water on the refuge.

2. **Restroom facilities:** There are restrooms at the trailheads of both the Carty and River 'S' Units, and one stop right before the Kiwa Trail on the River 'S' Auto Tour Route, but there are no other facilities available to the public.

3. **Bring a Snack:** Just like with water, we want you to stay healthy and happy, plan to bring a snack on longer walks, but keep in mind there are no picnic areas on the refuge.



## REDFIN

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

**4. Trash Receptacles:** There are no trash cans available so please pack out anything you bring in with you, we really appreciate it, and the wildlife does too!

**5. Appropriate Shoes:** If you plan to walk anywhere on the refuge, we recommend wearing shoes that protect your feet. While refuge staff strive to keep grasses, poison oak and stinging nettle back from the trails, they are always around, as well as fallen branches, rocks and more.

**6. Fire:** Fireworks and burning are strictly prohibited on the refuge, please protect our wildlife.

**7. Ticks:** Ticks are crafty, even on open trails they can find their way onto humans, so make sure to check yourself after a visit to the Refuge.

**8. Heat:** If the temperatures become too extreme, the Cathlapotle Plankhouse may be closed during it's regular open hours on the weekend. Keep up to date on sudden closures by checking the [Friends Facebook page here](#). You do not need to have a Facebook account to check.

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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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!

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## 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.





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*Header Photo Credit:* Gretchen Thompson 2010 Photo Contest  
Honorable  
Mention

Would you like to forward this email to a friend? [Click here.](#)

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