



January 2016



From the Friends of Ridgfield National Wildlife Refuge

Annual Membership and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner a Success



Future Visitors/Education Center Imagined

We held our annual Membership and Volunteer Appreciation dinner on December 13th, and everyone agreed it was a great success! The dinner began with a Chinook Welcome from our own Sam Robinson, and we voted in two Board Members, Susan Setterberg and Jim Maul, both have helped the Board many times, and will be invaluable assets for our future.

We honored our Habitat and Restoration Coordinator Lynn Cornelius as he rides off into retirement, gifting him a golden shovel, an oak tree start, and many more fun gifts. We are sad to see him go, but happy for him and his new adventures.

Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by the Sportsman's Restaurant and Tavern, purchased some gifts to support the Refuge, and shared a variety of desserts. We also asked everyone in attendance to put down their ideas to include in our future Visitors/Education center and here are some of the things our members suggested:

- 3D model of the Columbia River
- Interactive exhibits
- Displays of local art pertaining to the Refuge area
- Native American, Cultural and geological history of the area (X2)
- Field Guides
- Spotting scopes
- Green building but not spend a lot to save a little, design features that are cost effective
- Info on Refuge management

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Support the Refuge
& Become a
Member

Join or Renew

Events

Volunteers Wanted!

Check out our 2015-2016 volunteer planting schedule in the Habitat Restoration section!

- Wildlife art gallery
- Interactive nature scenes w/plants and animals - help visitors know what they are seeing
- Classrooms (X2)
- Gift shop (X2)
- Small art gallery
- History wall that continues into future
- Arts and culture center
- Native history with artifacts
-

Do you have some ideas? Keep an eye out for future events that you can attend and share your thoughts, we'd love to have you.



Header photo by: Rick Browne, Bottom photos by: Marguerite Hills

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!

2015 Refuge Photography Contest

Our own Dennis Davenport wins Grand Prize!

Save The Date for Volunteer Naturalist, and Plankhouse Volunteer trainings!

New Volunteer Training will begin in April 2016!

Want to volunteer at the Refuge as a Naturalist, Educator, or Plankhouse Docent? Each spring, we recruit and train people to interpret the amazing history, ecology, and wildlife of the Refuge for the public. We will provide training in refuge natural and cultural history, as well as ongoing volunteer support and professional development opportunities. More details about these trainings will be available soon!

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Volunteer Training:
Saturday, April 2

Refuge Naturalist Interpretive Training:
Four Fridays: April 8, 15, 22, and 29

For more information contact [Josie Finley@fws.gov](mailto:Josie_Finley@fws.gov)

Have Fun & Get Fit!



First Saturday Event Downtown

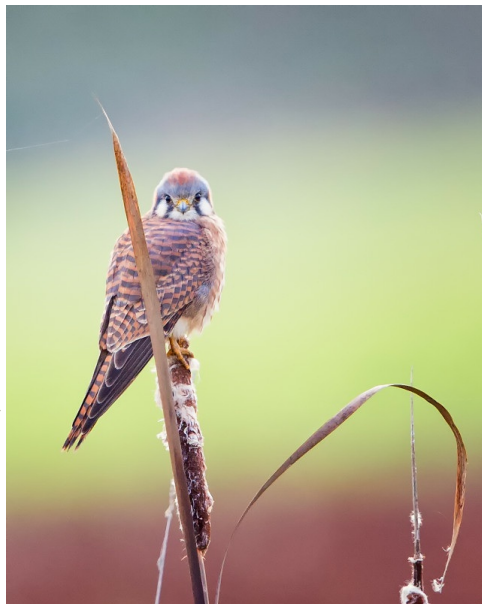
January 2nd

Feeling the effects of eating rich foods during the holiday season? Get inspired for a New You in a New Year at the Health & Fitness Festival! Walk, run, yoga, Zumba and more to get your heart rate up and your waistline trimmed down. Healthy eating info sessions, too. Get moving and get motivated! For info about other First Saturday events, City of Ridgefield visit: www.ci.ridgefield.wa.us

Follow this [link](#) for a full event schedule

Portland Art Museum
Thlatwa Thlatwa: Indigenous Currents

More than 800 photographs representing wildlife refuges in 41 states and two territories were submitted into this year's National Wildlife Refuge Association photography contest. Entrants highlighted the diverse, natural beauty found on our National Wildlife Refuge System-at nearly half a billion acres, it's the world's largest network of lands and waters dedicated to conserving fish and wildlife.



This photo of an American Kestrel was taken by Dennis Davenport of Portland, OR on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and won the Grand prize in this national contest. Congratulations Dennis!

Follow [this link](#) to see the other winners as well as a list of the top 55 entries in the finalist photo gallery.

Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards

New (and First!) Employee

We are excited to announce that the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards have a new (and their first) employee! Jared Strawderman worked for us this past summer as the Invasive Plant Field Coordinator working with volunteers to remove Ricefield Bulrush from the refuge. He also worked closely with Lynn and Aiden to prepare for the tree planting season at Ridgefield.

On November 1st, he began working with the Gorge Stewards as their Volunteer Coordinator. He has a background in Biology and as a volunteer coordinator for the Surfrider Foundation in Virginia Beach, VA. Based out of the Steigerwald Lake NWR office in Washougal, Jared plans to breathe new life into the volunteer program by building the regular Monday volunteer crew, having 3rd Saturday work parties, planting Oregon Oak trees on January 18th, restarting the Trail Rover Program, invasive plant work at Franz Lake NWR, planting milkweed at Pierce NWR, and many other volunteer opportunities to come.

As part of the Urban Initiative, the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards will be working closely with The Friends of Ridgefield NWR to spread the conservation message and to encourage more people to experience the refuges in the Portland area.

If you would like to get involved at the other refuges within the Ridgefield Complex, contact Jared at: jared_strawderman@fws.gov or by phone at 360-835-8767.



The Portland Art Museum has opened its new Center for Contemporary Native Art with an exhibition featuring the work of three contemporary Oregon Native artists: Greg Archuleta, Greg Robinson, and Sara Siestrem. These three artists bring forward a strong sense of the continuum of Native living cultures and artistic practices in these places we now call Portland and Oregon.

Gallery Talk: Greg Archuleta
Jan 23 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00

To see the schedule and for more info on the artists and more about this exhibition click [HERE](#)

Photo Source: Portland Art Museum- Greg A. Robinson, The High Status of Salamander, 2014, Yellow and red cedar, Museum collection 2014.92.3

Visitors/Education

Center Update

Check Back Here for Updates on our Next Project

We announced to our members and volunteers during the Annual Membership and Volunteer Appreciation dinner that the next big project for the friends will be a visitors/education center for the Refuge. We had guests put their ideas together to create an "Imagine" board of ideas, which were featured in the recap above. Below are some other ideas that were collected in the past:

- Nature Play space
- Children's Library (x2)
- Citizen Science Headquarters
- Partner Offices
- Organic Food Cooperative w/ volunteers trading time for food
- Coffee Shop/Wine Bar, community meeting place
- Sustainable garden demonstration space w/ native plants
- Story Walks: Follow a story on a hike
- Art Carving
- Meditation Path, Labyrinth
- Basket Weaving Classes
- Quiet Area
- Interactive Classroom
- Storytelling about ancestors
- Rental Yurt Village and Learning Center
- Field Trip Headquarters
- Outdoor Education Center,



Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Weather Warning:

We all appreciate the increased beauty that nature has with a layer of snow or frost. It is understandable that visitors would want to see the Refuge under a fresh blanket of snow. But these are also very treacherous times driving local roads. The ravine that serves as the entrance to the Refuge is steep and shadowy. During weather events, Refuge management has to make decisions about the safety of the road for passenger cars. When the weather seems threatening, please check the [Refuge's website](#) or call Refuge Headquarters 360-887-4106 to ensure that the Refuge is open to the public. We want to avoid the frustration of visitors making trips to the Refuge to find the gates closed.

In addition to snow events, avoid the Refuge during high wind events. Many Refuge closures are associated with fallen trees along the auto tour route and entrance road. Fallen trees may trap visitors on the Refuge until staff can respond to the situation. Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to call the hunter hotline 360-571-2015 for indement weather closures of the Refuge. During winter storms, Refuge staff monitor forecasts to announce closures of the hunt program prior to each hunting day.

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

collocated/

funded with school district (x2)

- Restaurant serving invasive species
- Nature School, instead of going to Cispus bring it to Ridgefield
- Tool lending library, workshop/class space, local artisan/goods marketplace
- Join the earthquake preparedness effort, providing education by linking to past quake effects at the site
- Local food market
- Cafe that values and exercises sustainability
- Daycare
- Native pollinator garden
- Better signage to events!
- Archaeological museum w/ full curation and repository of artifacts
- Native American museum
- Cultural recreation events; ex: mask ceremonies

If you have any ideas that you'd like to share, you can join us for Board meetings the second Monday of almost every month, or keep an eye out for events here in our newsletter where you can come and help us make this project a reality. For more information on when and where our monthly board meetings are, contact us at contact@ridgefieldfriends.org.

Port of Ridgefield named Port of the Year by Washington Public Ports!

Read the port's nomination application package to learn why they received the award!

[Ridgefield Port of the Year Nomination Package](#), and [here is the press release from WPPA](#).



Wanted: Members of the Hero Society!

A coalition of more than a dozen conservation organizations, led by the Captain Planet Foundation, are working on a program to activate children to be heroes for local species that need habitat restoration, food, and other interventions to lessen or prevent their current decline trend.

And they need you to play a key



CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE

Celebrating Ten Years ▶ 2005 - 2015

Cathlapotle Plankhouse is a Resource for Teachers and Community Members Teaching about Native Cultures

Are you or someone you know teaching about Native cultures in a classroom, club, or natural area? Do you have questions on what the best sources of information are, or how to interpret Native Cultures in a respectful and accurate way? Plankhouse Coordinator Sarah Hill is happy to talk with you and answer your curriculum questions to make your programs as respectful, historically accurate, and engaging as possible!

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

Articles of Interest:

Article about Chinook Nation's Fight for Recognition

The Chinook Indian Nation, our primary tribal partner in the Cathlapotle Plankhouse programs, are still fighting for federal tribal recognition. Read an interview with Tony Johnson about the about the Chinook Nation and the steps that they are taking to get tribal recognition [here](#).

Tamánwit: A Symposium of Columbia River Art & Sovereignty

Thursday, February 4, 2016 1 PM - 8 PM

Join the College of Arts, the History Department, and the Native American Student & Community Center for a day of discussions and celebrations of Indigenous Columbia River Plateau art at Portland State University.

Symposium: 1pm - 4pm @ Lincoln Hall Studio Theater (LH115)

- presentations, film, panel discussions

Reception: 4pm - 5pm @ Lincoln Hall Broadway Gallery

- view the MasterWorks of the Columbia Plateau art exhibit

Keynote: 7pm - 8:30pm @ Native American Student & Community Center

- featuring Roberta Conner, Director, Tamástslikt Cultural Institute

For more information or updates visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1641445129439184/>

Climate and Native Wisdom: The People of the Caribou

Wisdom of The Elders, a Portland-based Native-led non-profit, is producing a series of Native American climate documentaries alongside the fourth series of *Wisdom of the Elders* Radio Program. Oral history, cultural arts, and climate science series featuring voices of exemplary Native elders, storytellers, song carriers, and scientists, offer vital perspective on environmental and climate issues. Watch a clip from Wisdom of the Elders' documentary short *Climate and Native Wisdom: The People of the Caribou*, and consider contributing to their fundraising campaign to complete the documentary series!

<http://www.wisdomoftheelders.org/climate-and-the-people-of-the-caribou/>

Habitat Restoration

role! As they test the program prototype in one school, Hero Society members would receive very limited contact by a class.

Click [here](#) for more info!

Species Spotlight

American Beaver
Castor canadensis



Water is a major factor in shaping our local landscapes, as December's rainfall and summer's drought have so forcefully reminded us this past year. Contributing to that influence is nature's team of civil engineers—the American Beaver. Nearly decimated in the late 1800's by trappers and farmers, they have since been reestablished and are once again relatively common in many areas.

These large, semi-aquatic rodents choose habitats with access to water and deciduous trees, their preferred food. They eat the twigs, inner bark and leaves of trees such as alder, willow and cottonwood. Beavers are able to digest up to 30% of the cellulose in their diet thanks to special fermenting intestinal microorganisms. Adults can grow up to three feet from nose to tail and average 40 pounds. They typically live between five to ten years in the wild.

Their lodges are made up of both deciduous and evergreen logs, mud, grasses, rocks, and other materials they gather within about 165 feet of the water's edge. These provide warm, dry and safe havens for raising young, resting and feeding. Kits, which are usually born early in the year, stay with their parents about two years before heading off to find their own mates. Pairs usually stay together for years, with some mating for life.

The ponds and open areas that beavers and their dams create help provide habitat for deer, herons, ducks, geese, frogs, raccoons, weasels, and a wide variety of other wildlife. Snags and other deadwood around beaver dens provide homes for woodpeckers and insects.

And those teeth! Able to gnaw through hardwoods, beaver teeth maintain

Updates & Events

It is astounding looking back at all the work that's been done to restore habitat on the Refuge in 2015 alone. We have planted 20,707 native trees and shrubs to create habitat for the Columbian White-tailed Deer. We pulled 33,500 invasive Ricefield Bulrush plants from wetlands in the River 'S' unit. We used 34,720 gallons of water to help our plantings survive this past summer's drought. Volunteers donated 2,504 hours of their time - over a year's worth of full-time work to ensure that the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge can host the wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects that make this such an enthralling place. And these numbers don't reflect the many hours spent removing other invasive plant species, maintaining older plantings, or any of the other innumerable tasks that keep the Refuge running.

2016 will hold more of the same. Tree plantings through March, Ricefield Bulrush pulls and plantation maintenance during the summer, and a million other things that we couldn't do without the help of our volunteers. We are forever grateful for their time and commitment to the Refuge, and we look forward to working with new and returning volunteers in the coming year. From Aiden, Lynn, Stephen, and the new Habitat Coordinator Keith, we hope you have had a fantastic holiday, and we hope to see you on the Refuge in the New Year!

Contact Aiden_Forsi@fws.gov for more details!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

FALL/WINTER/SPRING 2015-16

RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HABITAT RESTORATION SCHEDULE			
FALL/WINTER/SPRING 2015-16			
Date	Day	Activity	Meeting Place
Oct 28	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Nov 4	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Nov 7	Sat	Planting	River S. Unit
Nov 18	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Nov 21	Sat	Planting	River S. Unit
Dec 2	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Dec 5	Sat	Planting	River S. Unit
Dec 9	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Dec 16	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Jan 13	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Jan 18	Mon	Planting	River S. Unit
Jan 23	Sat	Planting	River S. Unit
Jan 27	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Feb 6	Sat	Planting	River S. Unit
Feb 10	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Feb 20	Sat	Planting	River S. Unit
Feb 24	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Mar 2	Wed	Planting	River S. Unit
Mar 5	Sat	Planting	River S. Unit



Help plant habitat for the Endangered Columbian white-tailed deer in the wild and beautiful setting of the 5,200 acre Refuge. We are planting 5,200 native trees and shrubs to provide cover and forage for the deer and other wildlife. Registration is encouraged but not required. Contact staff at 360-887-3883 or Aiden_Forsi@fws.gov. Special days may also be arranged for groups. All work days are from **9 am to 12:30 pm rain or shine**. **Wear waterproof footwear (boots are best), bring gloves, and dress for the weather.** Hot drinks and snacks provided!



DIRECTIONS: Exit 14 off I-5: River S Unit: west 2.5 miles to Hillhurst (9th) Ave, left for 3/4 mile to River S. Unit entrance, down hill across bridge to kiosk parking lot. All volunteers must sign a volunteer service agreement (if under 18 must be signed by parent or guardian) which can be found at:

[Volunteer Services Agreement and Habitat Restoration Position Description](#)

All events are sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the [Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge](#)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this event for all participants. Please direct requests for sign language interpreting, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to the Ridgefield NWR Park Ranger at 360-887-4106, or via email to Josie_Finley@fws.gov. Requests must be made by close of business 10 days in advance of the event.

sharp edges because the front surface is harder than the faster-wearing rear. They continue to grow over the beaver's lifetime, since they are constantly being ground down. Habitat volunteers on our refuge put metal cages around new plantings near beaver areas to protect them from these hungry critters while they get established.

Other than the wood chips and tree girdling that give evidence of beaver activities, it is difficult to view beavers in the wild because they are primarily nocturnal. You may be able to catch a glimpse of one swimming in early morning or evening with just the ears, eyes and nose visible at the point of a V-shaped wake in the water. Their broad tails may also be visible just below the surface.

Did you know: A beaver's leathery tail has many uses, from helping them steer through the water, regulating body heat, storing fat, and slapping the water to warn others of danger. Beavers also use their tails for balance when walking or carrying building materials. But one thing they *don't* use it for is plastering mud on their dams!

Photo by Denis Mudderman



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

Friends Turn Over a New Leaf

As Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Lynn Cornelius, Retires

After 10 years of dedicated service to the Refuge and the Friends, Lynn is retiring from a long career tending to the wild spaces of the Pacific Northwest. Growing up in La Center, WA, Lynn has always had a connection with the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge saying, after living in Seattle for many years and working with the Nature Conservancy, he was happy to transition back to his old stomping grounds.

In his retirement speech at the Friends holiday party he said, "When we

moved back to Clark County 20 years ago, I thought of how nice it would be to work at the Refuge, a familiar landscape from my youth. Thanks to you all, the Refuge staff, and your predecessors, I have been able to live that dream...this has been the best job, the best location, the best people, and the best support of my career. I am a lucky man." When asked about his plans for retirement, Lynn replied that he was "going to give himself a mental vacation and not plan anything or think about it very hard for a while and just relax". He also mentioned looking forward to giving his wood-working shop some attention and spending more time at home with his wife, Holly, and their dogs and alpacas.

We are definitely going to miss the humor, thoroughness, and depth of knowledge that Lynn has brought to the Friends and to the Refuge's Habitat Programs. He has left a legacy in the landscape of the Refuge, and his impact will be felt for years to come. Though we are going to miss Lynn, we are excited to have Keith Rutz on board to take over as Habitat Restoration Coordinator as of January 1st.



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.

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

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: Marguerite Hills



Columbia

Lucy's Garden
Winery

Ridgefield, Washington

*Clark Public Utilities
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Environmental Paper & Print
Fred Meyer Community
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National Fish & Wildlife
Foundation
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