

October 2016

## BirdFest and Bluegrass 2016

Mark your calendar for our 17th Annual BirdFest and Bluegrass Celebration!

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge present:

# BirdFest & Bluegrass

in Ridgefield, WA

**Sept. 30 — Oct. 2**

17th Annual

Join us for a wonder-filled weekend exploring wildlife and Chinookan culture!

- **Sandhill Crane Tours** Not regularly open to the public. Call for reservations 360-609-0658.
- **Audubon Wild Birds of Prey!**
- **Naturalist led hikes:** Birding, Ethnobotany, Geology, Night Hike & more
- Chinookan Cultural Activities at the Cathlapotle Plankhouse
- Kayak & Big Canoe Tours
- **Birders' Marketplace** Nature inspired arts & crafts for sale
- **Hands on workshops:** Bird Language, Photography, Watercolor, Basketry, DIY T-Shirt couture
- **Film Screenings:** The Birds (Fri. 7pm) and The Promised Lands (Sunday at 1:00 pm)
- **Most events are free! Call for reservations 360-609-0658.**

**Bluegrass Music & Beer Garden!** Bluegrass Jammers playing between the Old Liberty Theatre and the Sportsman's from 11:00 to 6:00. At the Old Liberty Theater at 7:00 pm, Brian Oberlin Bluegrass Trio and Jeff Scroggins and Colorado until 10:00. Wristbands sold on site.

**For more information and the Schedule of Events visit:**  
[www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org)

Thank you to our generous sponsors!



(Click poster for a link to our website)

## BirdFest & Bluegrass 2016 Schedule of Events

For reservation only events: please read the descriptions for where to RSVP, and register by 9/30/16.

*Please include your full name and the number in your party when reserving.*

All Sandhill Crane Tours are now full, as well as the 6:30 PM Friday Night Hike.

*We are taking names for the waitlist for these days, please include your full name, the number in your party and the date and time you would like to be waitlisted for.*

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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

Volunteers Wanted!

Check out the Habitat Restoration section of this newsletter for volunteer dates and how to sign up.

To become an education or

Events below the activity matrix are free and do not require registration.

(Click the images below for a download of this schedule)

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge present

# BirdFest™ & Bluegrass

in Ridgefield, WA Saturday & Sunday  
**Sept. 30 – Oct. 2 2016**

17th Annual

Join us for a wonder-filled weekend of nature, wildlife, and Native American culture

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thanks to our generous sponsors this year:

The web site has the latest updated schedule:  
[www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org)

## Bluegrass Music Schedule

at Old Liberty Theater & Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon

**Friday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> — Movie, *The Birds* at 7:00 pm** back by popular demand, the Old Liberty Theater is proud to present Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 classic. Admission is free.

**The Whiskey Achievers at 9:00 pm** at the Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon. Whistlers sold on site. Portland's bluegrass band stirs up old-school country and whiskey-soaked acoustic punk into a sweaty, boot stompin' energetic performance.

**Saturday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> — Bluegrass Jamming at 11:00 am to 6:00 pm** Linda Levitt will MC this afternoon of music in the beer garden between the Old Liberty Theater and the Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon.

**Brian Oberlin Bluegrass Quartet at 7:00 pm** at the Old Liberty Theater. Featuring Brian Oberlin (mandolin), Michael Shay (guitar), Peter Schweimer (banjo), and Chris Kee (bass). Four seasoned bluegrass and swing musicians collaborate with 3-4 part harmony vocals and some of the finest picking in the Northwest.

**Jeff Scroggins and Colorado at 8:00 pm** at the Old Liberty Theater. Jeff Scroggins & Colorado is a high energy five-piece bluegrass band. Their distinctive sound showcases an eclectic range of influences that many second and third generation bluegrass, delivering a unique experience that captivates audiences and keeps them guessing; it's a powerful, high mountain "bluegrass explosion" that features world-class banjo and mandolin playing, incredible vocals, a solid and energetic rhythm, and an easy stage banter that has delighted listeners all over the world.

**Sunday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> — Movie, *Promised Land* at 1:00 pm** at the Old Liberty Theater. \$5-10 suggested donation. Join the Friends and our partner in the Plankhouse Project, the Chinook Indian Nation, for a screening of the new documentary, *Promised Land*. This film follows two tribes in the Pacific Northwest: the Duwamish and the Chinook, as they fight for the restoration of treaty rights they've long been denied. In following their story, the film examines a larger problem in the way that the government and society still looks at tribal sovereignty. Stay after for a Q&A with Chinook Nation [www.promisedlanddoc.com](http://www.promisedlanddoc.com)

### The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

is a passionate group of volunteers who support the Refuge. This takes many forms and is always expanding.

Join us in preserving our nature, wildlife, and history.

- Become a member or renew your membership.
- \$50 members receive an annual Refuge Pass.

Friends of RWR is a non-profit organization. If you'd like to join us or make a donation, go to our web site for on-line registration and donation forms.

Check out the year-round calendar of events.

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge  
 P.O. Box 1022, Ridgefield, WA 98642  
 RidgefieldFriends@gmail.com 360-887-9495  
[www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org)

naturalist volunteer, and help with school groups, hikes, walks and more, contact [Josie.Finley@FWS.gov](mailto:Josie.Finley@FWS.gov) or [Plankhouse@gmail.com](mailto:Plankhouse@gmail.com)

## Ridgefield First Saturday: BirdFest & Bluegrass

Saturday October 1, 2016

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge present

# BirdFest & Bluegrass

Oct. 1st & 2nd 2016

Saturday Oct. 1st: 9:00-2:00PM @ Overlook Park

- Farmer's Market
- Live Music
- Interactive Arts Activities with Ridgefield Art Association
- Birdfest Scavenger Hunt Bingo

See the schedule to the left for more about what else is going on in town the rest of the weekend!

## Species Spotlight

Friends of Ridgefield NWR  
 Bird of the Year  
 Western Tanager  
*Piranga ludoviciana*



Our Bird of the Year is the colorful Western Tanager, an evergreen canopy loving bird, we see it only rarely on the refuge in the Spring, Summer and Fall. These birds breed in generally more open woods all over the West as far north as Alaska. Western Tanagers frequent a wide variety of fairly open coniferous surroundings during migration, but will also visit man-made habitats such as orchards, parks, and suburban gardens. In

### Locations for BirdFest Events:

Ridgefield, WA is a 25-minute drive north of Portland and just 15 minutes north of Vancouver.

#### BirdFest activities occur at these three locations:

- Refuge Carty Unit & Cathlapotle Plankhouse:**
  - Carty Unit: 28908 NW Main Ave
  - Plankhouse: Carty Unit, over pedestrian bridge. The Carty Unit is north of town .75 mi.
- Refuge River 'S' Unit & Kiwa Trail:**
  - River 'S' Visitor Contact Station: The River 'S' Unit is south of town. Turn onto S. 9th Ave. off Pioneer St.
  - The River 'S' Unit's Auto Tour Route will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday dawn until dusk. The Kiwa Trail will be open all weekend and is where many of the birding hikes are led.
- Downtown Ridgefield:**
  - View Ridge Middle School: 510 Pioneer Street.
  - Birders' Marketplace is in the Ridgefield Community Center: 210 N. Main Ave. Also there are tented booths on Mill St. next to Davis Park.
  - Davis Park: 212 N. Main Ave.
  - Public Boat Launch: 5 Mill St.
  - Old Liberty Theater: 115 N. Main Ave.
  - Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon: 121 N. Main Ave.

**Map Legend:**

- Information booth
- Parking
- Restrooms
- David Dwyer Observation Blind
- View Ridge Middle School

Note: There will be no guided bus tours on the River 'S' Unit this year. The Auto Tour Route will be open to vehicles on both Saturday and Sunday. Please download an audio guide podcast for the Auto Tour Route at [www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org) or on iTunes® or borrow a Audio CD at the Visitors Contact Station.



Winners will be announced during our BirdFest & Bluegrass Celebration, October 1st, at 2pm in Davis Park

## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



### Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

#### Can YOU Imagine?

Please join us on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge's Carty Unit, October 1st & 2nd, from 12 to 4pm, to share your ideas about what a Community & Nature Center at the Refuge could be.

(Click the poster for the pdf version)



at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge  
in Ridgefield, Washington

*The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge want to know "What can you imagine?"*

The diverse landscape at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge not only sustains thriving populations of wildlife, it also invites people of all abilities to connect with nature and share their outdoor experience with others.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Friends invite you to envision and help inform the design and future use of a new community building located at the refuge. This new asset, a Community & Nature Center, will help us all explore connections among community, our daily lives, and nature.

We invite YOU to join us at the 17th Annual BirdFest & Bluegrass Celebration to provide input in developing a Community & Nature Center at the Refuge.

The imagination tent will include displays related to new and exciting ideas for this community asset, as well as displays relating to the work completed to date.

**WHEN:**  
SAT/SUN Oct 1-2, 2016  
12:00PM - 4:00PM

**WHERE:**  
Across the Pedestrian Bridge  
at the Refuge's Carty Unit  
28908 N. Main  
Ridgefield, WA 98642



### Good Things Come to Those Who Bait



**Did You Know:** Close to the turn of the twentieth century, many thought that Western Tanagers were a significant threat to commercial fruit crops. An observer wrote in 1896, "the damage done to cherries in one orchard was so great that the sales of the fruit which was left did not balance the bills paid out for poison and ammunition." Thankfully today it is illegal to shoot native birds, and Western Tanagers are safer than they were a century ago.

**Bonus Fun Fact:** A male Western Tanager was banded in Nevada in 1965 and lived 6 years and 11 months by the time he was recaptured and released during banding in Oregon in 1971.

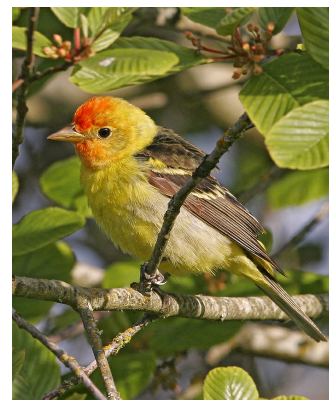


Photo Credits: Roger Windemuth

### 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. Outreach volunteers are needed to help staff Friends and Refuge booths at events in our community from Ridgefield to Portland. Outreach volunteers work alongside Refuge and Friends staff to answer questions about the Refuge, provide information about what visitors can do at this Refuge, and act as ambassadors for one of our region's best kept secrets. Interested in learning how to get involved? Contact Park Ranger Josie Finley at [Josie\\_Finley@fws.gov](mailto:Josie_Finley@fws.gov) or call (360) 887-4106.

If that pun wasn't enough for you, here's one that's a little more to the point of this month's Urban Refuge Support Team nugget: "A reel expert can tackle anything."

By now, you've probably caught on (there we go again) that we're talking about fishing. It's an activity that ranges from pastime to art form, depending on who you ask - but that's not exactly why we're talking about it here. What we really want to highlight are the growing relationships between our Urban Refuges and two outstanding organizations that firmly believe in nature's ability, specifically through fishing, to empower at-risk youth to envision a positive future.

Soul River Inc. has partnered with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the past three years to put on Celebration of Wild Steelhead, a neighborhood park event that encourages young people from culturally diverse and income-challenged communities to try out fly fishing for the first time. The big picture for Soul River and its Founder, Chad Brown, is forming healing, mentoring relationships between military veterans with PTSD and inner city youth who experience trauma in their daily lives. The park event is a terrific first step in that process, offering youth a taste of fly fishing in a familiar, comfortable environment made all the more vibrant by live music, food, and partner activities.

Similarly, I'm Hooked uses fishing as a platform for positive youth development. The organization has hosted a two-day fishing event of the same name at Henry Hagg Lake near Gaston, OR since 1989! While the event is open to all, Director Wil Warren's primary motivation is offering nature as an alternative to negative influences many urban youth face. Over the years he has expanded his outreach from inner Portland to the suburbs of Washington County. Through a growing list of partners, I'm Hooked gets kids out on the lake in boats, entertains and educates them with other hands-on activities, and sends them home with a free rod and reel.

In addition to providing financial support, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has hosted activities at both events as a way of connecting budding anglers to the Service and other opportunities to experience nature close to home. The Celebration of Wild Steelhead was on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and I'm Hooked is a bit further out in June 2017. Contact Kim Strassburg at [kim\\_strassburg@fws.gov](mailto:kim_strassburg@fws.gov) if you're interested in helping us spread the good word about our Urban Refuges.

*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



**CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE**  
Celebrating Ten Years ▶ 2005 - 2015

### The Cathlapotle Plankhouse closes for the season after BirdFest & Bluegrass weekend!

There will be a variety of workshops and activities featured in and around the Plankhouse during BirdFest, check out the schedule to plan your visit!

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

## Fall Refuge Tips



The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge want to share some reminders for a successful and fun visit to the refuge:

1. Until September 30th, you can walk along the River 'S' Unit Auto Tour Route.
2. BirdFest weekend, the first weekend in October, is the last weekend to walk the Kiwa trail until May 2017.
3. Water: Make sure to bring water with you whether you are planning a long or a short visit, there is no access to drinking water on the refuge.
4. 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.
5. 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!

And once again, don't forget to bring water! Thank you and we hope you have a great visit to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge!



## Birding Enthusiasts



See what is being seen at the refuge this week at our [Weekly Sightings](#) page, or get a

captioning, or other accommodations needs to Juliet McGraw, 360- 887-4106, Plankhouse@gmail.com TTY 800-877-8339 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

## Upcoming Events and Exhibitions:

### PROMISED LAND DEBUT SCREENINGS AND FESTIVALS

"Some of you may've seen the news on our official Chinook Indian Nation Facebook page, but *Promised Land* is being released in select theaters this fall and has been officially selected to screen in several festivals....We're really looking forward to these events that will bring the communities and the tribes together, raise awareness, funds, and foster good alliances in the Northwest so we can see justice happen.

We finished the film this spring after three years of research, filming and editing. We're so pleased to announce that it's been accepted to the **19th Annual Local Sightings Film Festival**, **Joshua Tree International Film Festival**, the **12th Annual Ellensburg Film Festival**, on top of many exciting regional shows we have planned.

Many other screenings, as well as festival screenings, are being planned for the duration of the fall and winter... including the BirdFest and Bluegrass 2016 screening date and time:

- **Ridgefield, WA - Old Liberty Theater, October 2nd, 1pm**

The film was three years in the making, but the work of getting the message out there is really just starting for us. If you have ideas of how we can partner these screenings and the ones that will follow with positive political action, please get in touch with us and the tribes with your ideas. If you know of a school, group, museum, or local theater that would be interested in showing a screening of the film or arranging a discussion, please send us a message or [contact us here](#).

If you'd like to stay in touch through social media, subscribe to our Facebook page [here](#).

Thank you for your support. We look forward to sharing this story with you all. Let us know if you have any questions or ideas for partnership.



With our love: we couldn't have asked for a better community to make a film for. *Hayu masi* and *ck'wálidkw*.

Vasant and Sarah Samudre Salcedo"

Want to volunteer with us? Contact Juliet at [Plankhouse@gmail.com](mailto:Plankhouse@gmail.com)  
Questions? Contact Sarah at [Sarah.Hill@fws.gov](mailto:Sarah.Hill@fws.gov)  
or call (360) 887-4106

## Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

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

Habitat Restoration volunteering is still available throughout the fall, with most volunteer days on Wednesdays. Contact Keith Rutz at [Keith\\_Rutz@fws.gov](mailto:Keith_Rutz@fws.gov) for more info or to sign up!

A new schedule of volunteer dates will be out soon, so keep checking our website at [www.ridgefieldfriends.org](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org) for more info!

## Online Store Now Open!

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge are proud 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!

## 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](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!

Header Photo Credit: Gretchen Thompson 2010 Photo Contest Honorable Mention



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  
Parr Lumber  
Pelican Brewing Co.  
Portland Audubon

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