



December 2016

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Annual Membership Dinner

Save the date! The Friend's Annual Member Dinner will be:

Sunday, January 22nd
2-4pm

Location to be announced, invitations coming soon!



Additional Information:

The meeting will include a summary of Refuge projects undertaken this year, as well as future projects. Current Members will elect new Friends Board Members.

Not a current Friend's member? Or membership expired?

Become a member & receive all the benefits of membership! Also, be able to vote in this year's elections! Friends' membership details & online payment can be found here: [Join the Friends](#)

In This Issue...

Events

[Ridgefield First Saturday: Hometown Celebration](#)

[Board Seeking New Members!](#)

[Species Spotlight](#)

[Represent the Friends](#)

[Birding Enthusiasts](#)

[The Benefits of Membership](#)

[Friends Annual Membership Dinner](#)

[Photo Contest Calendars, Just in time for Holiday Shopping!](#)

[New Friends Board Member!](#)

[From the River 'S' Contact Station](#)

[Holiday Reminders](#)

[Junior Duck Stamp Contest](#)

[Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge](#)

[Cathlapotle Plankhouse Update & Events](#)

[Habitat Restoration](#)

[Online Store Now Open!](#)

[Help the Friends and the Refuge When You Shop Online](#)

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.

Photo Contest Calendars, Just in time for Holiday Shopping!



Help support the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and our unique education and habitat restoration programs by purchasing this great gift!

These \$15.00, 16 month calendars run from January 2017 to April 2018, and feature all 16 of the 2016 Refuge Photo Contest Winners.

Each month's photo is labelled with the winner's name and what place in the contest they got, as well as identification

Events

Volunteers Wanted!

Winter restoration efforts are underway! Check out the Habitat Restoration section of this newsletter for info and who to contact to sign up.

of the subject of each photo. This calendar also includes some key dates that are important to the Friends and the Refuge.

This 8.5x11 calendar opens to 11x17, with #80 cover paper and #100 text paper inside. It is saddle-stitched, and includes a hole for wall hanging.

Please allow for a minimum of 3 business days to process and ship your purchase (less as we get closer to the holidays), if you need it sooner, please contact us at contact@ridgefieldfriends.org.

[To purchase these beautiful calendars, click here!](#)

You can also find these calendars for sale at Season's Coffee Tea & Remedies- located inside the Old Liberty Theater at 115 N Main Ave, Ridgefield, WA 98642!

New Friends Board Member!

Victoria Haugen



Hello! I'm Victoria Haugen, and I'm so proud and humbled to become a member of the Friends' Board. My husband and I live in Ridgefield, and we are grateful every day to call this amazing community home. I'm a paralegal with the firm of Miller & Wagner, LLP, in Northwest Portland, and

have been in the legal field for over 27 years now. I'm also a huge lover of animals and wildlife, and I can't wait to assist the Friends in whatever capacity I am able. I cannot imagine a more rewarding way to spend my free time than volunteering to help my community. I'm super excited to join the effort, and can't wait to see what the future holds.

From the River 'S' Contact Station

Fall moving into winter is a wonderful time to visit the River 'S' auto tour route. The leaves are falling, giving good views into the forested



areas where you might see one of our several Great Horned Owls. The eagles are around hunting the ducks, especially coots. But best of all, to my mind, are the number and variety of hawks.

Northern Harriers are probably the easiest to identify. They fly low to the ground looking for their prey of furry critters in our grassy fields. The white rump, or upper tail covers, on the mostly brown/reddish females and the gray males is a dead giveaway that you have a Northern

To become an education or naturalist volunteer, and help with school groups, hikes, walks and more, contact

Josie_Finley@FWS.gov or Plankhouse@gmail.com

Ridgefield First Saturday: Hometown Celebration

Saturday, December 3, 2016



Come and enjoy music, fun, food, family-friendly activities and a sense of community at downtown Ridgefield's First Saturday events. Bask in the warmth, wonder, joy and spirit you'll find in downtown Ridgefield. Santa, elves, music, crafts, gifts from local businesses, cookie decorating and more!

9AM - Ugly Sweater Run - 5K & 10K, downtown Ridgefield (See www.runridgefield.com) for fees & details)

9AM-4PM - Art & Craft Bazaar & Golden Elephant Sale @ Ridgefield Community Center

10AM-3PM - Holiday Food & Gift Marketplace with live music heaters @ Overlook Park. Sponsored by Columbia Credit Union; Live Music featuring View Ridge choir & band and local artists.

10AM-2PM - Hot cider, cookies & kid's crafts; holiday storytime at 10:30 @ Ridgefield Community Library

11AM-2PM - Cookie decorating, kids crafts & goodies @ Church of the Nazarene

11AM-2PM - South Ridge & Union Ridge student craft bazaar @ View Ridge Middle School

Harrier. Sitting on the ground, which they often do while feeding on what they have just caught, they are a little harder to identify. But look for the auricular pattern, or light disc shaped feathers around the sides of the head. It looks rather owl like, but skinnier.

But the big confusion is separating our two most frequent winter Buteos - the Rough-legged and the Red-tailed Hawks. With the right view, you can identify most. I say most, because our birds can vary a lot in plumage. What do you look for to help you decide what you have? A good start is finding a red tail; so, you have a Red-tailed Hawk. That wasn't hard. But if you don't have a red-tail, you can still have a Red-tailed Hawk. There is a tremendous amount of variability in our Red-tails, and young ones can have light to dark brown tails with variable fine dark banding. The Rough-legged has a very different tail *pattern*. Look for the thick dark band on the distal end of the tail, and white across the proximal (inner)end. So, what about that belly band that is used to identify the Red-tailed Hawk? Well, that is not always diagnostic. I've heard the coloring of the lower body of the Rough-legged described as pants. But when the pants are short shorts and the belly band is a huge cummerbund, it can be too close to call with any certainty.

There are a couple of ways to puzzle out these two Buteos when they are soaring. Red-tailed Hawks are larger-billed with a heavier appearing head that is often dark. They also show a distinctive diagnostic dark bar on the leading edge of the underwing, which is called the patagial mark. No other hawk has this mark. By contrast, the Rough-legged Hawk has a conspicuous squarish dark carpal-patch on the underwing (at the bend of wing). Flight habits are a bit different too. Rough-legged hawks fly with a slight dihedral to the wings and are more apt to hover. Red-tails might hover too in the right wind conditions, but it is not their habit, and they soar with flatter wings. There are many more fine details to separate these birds, and you should consult your birding guide to help. It is always a challenge and sometimes one will "get away." But it is very rewarding to find one of our Rough-legged visitors among the many Red-tails that winter at Ridgefield.

Note about driving on the Auto Tour Route: People sometimes get confused, especially during hunt days, about where there is two-way traffic and one way traffic on the Auto Tour. From the contact station to the hunt gate, the road is two-way traffic. From the hunt gate going left, which is south, you will see the sign indicating one way only for the rest of the tour. Please be kind and courteous and keep your car to the side if you are Birding and Photographing, so other cars may pass.

Reporting from the River 'S' Contact Station- Susan Setterberg, Volunteer
Photo Credit: Samantha Zeiner

Holiday Time of Giving Reminders

It's that time of year when we all give thanks, and the

11AM-3PM - Kids Activity Center: games, Crafts, Selfie-Station @ Sportsman's

Noon-3PM - Santa arrives at Umpqua Bank, photos \$5 or \$4 with 2 cans of food

Noon-3PM - Holiday Trailer Rides with Santa's elves & warm blankets; hot cocoa & cider served by A Merry Heart Events & Sage Organics

Noon-3PM - Live Nativity Scene by Ridgefield Community United Methodist Church @ Old Liberty Theater

3:00PM - Cookie Decorating @ Pioneer Street Cafe

4:30PM - Tree Lighting Festival @ Overlook Park featuring DanceFusion NW, hot Cider, cocoa & community sing-along

6:00PM - Mulled Wine & Chalk Art @ Koi Pond Cellars

7:30PM - Acoustic Guitar Summit Holiday Concert, tickets \$18 @ Old Liberty Theater

ALL DAY:

- Prize Drawings @ Ridgefield Hardware, Pioneer Marketplace, Ridgefield Floral and Main Street Studio
- Holiday decorating contest Voting - Cast your vote for your favorite decorated store or restaurant.
- Spiced wine tasting @ Ridgefield Liquor Store.
- Special sales, holiday treats, gifts and more all around downtown!

No admission to First Saturday events or activities except as noted.

Visit the [City of Ridgefield Page](#) for a gallery of previous years' events.

Board Seeking New Members!

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge are beyond thankful for all of our Volunteers and supporters! Whether you have volunteered



just a few hours or hundreds, donated 25 dollars or much more, we appreciate you! Our Refuges depend on your dedication and generosity. And with the holiday giving time just around the corner, we wanted to remind you there are a variety of easy ways to extend your generosity - [AmazonSmile](#), [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#), and of course, [becoming a member](#)!

With [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#) and [AmazonSmile](#), all you have to do is sign up and shop. You don't lose any benefits and you can passively donate to us every time you grocery shop or buy online! For more information on [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#) [click here](#) (sign up with organization#: **89824**), and [AmazonSmile](#), [click here](#)!

Note about Fred Meyer Rewards: Don't forget, if you had the Friends as the receiver of your Fred Meyer Community Rewards, but did not re-enroll with us as your choice in June of this year, we may not be getting the rewards! Check the bottom of your receipt the next time you shop at Fred Meyer to see who your rewards points are supporting, or click the link above to change your preferences.



If you [become a member](#), you get to join a group of hardworking dedicated volunteers, staff, and supporters who work diligently to make the distinctive programs of

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge come to life. All members also receive perks like invitations to member's only events, walks and talks, as well as a member card with discounts to local businesses. Members who join at the \$50 level or above receive an annual refuge pass, good to get you onto the refuge for an entire year. This is a great way to support a cause and get in that end of the year tax-deductable donation!

[To become a member click here!](#)

Enter the Junior Duck Stamp Contest!

Attention all kids grades K-12! Put your art skills to the test by participating in the Washington State Junior Duck Stamp contest!

Art work is judged in four groups (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12) with three 1st place, three 2nd place, three 3rd place, and 16 Honorable Mentions awarded in each group. All 36 place winners receive certificates, ribbons, and prizes.

Washington Best in Show continues on to the National Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest, where the top three artists are awarded scholarships. The winning design



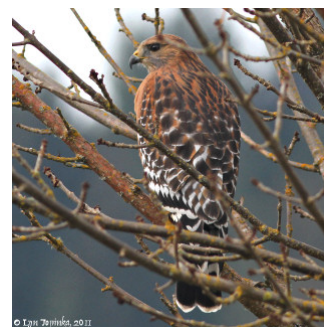
The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is looking to expand its Board Membership. The Board is seeking individuals with a deep passion for the environment and wildlife, appreciation of the area's rich cultural heritage, maintenance and restoration of habitat, and environmental and cultural education.

We are looking for individuals with interests and skills in dealing with the intersection of organizations, the government, and business; advocacy; and fundraising. Board Members are expected to attend monthly meetings, lead and participate in designated committees, BirdFest and Fundraising events, and other community activities and events.

Please send your resume and a letter of interest to:
contact@ridgefieldfriends.org

Species Spotlight

Red-Shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*



The stunning red-shouldered hawk, which may commonly be confused for a red-tailed hawk, is a medium-sized forest raptor with broad wings and robust bodies. They have been recently spotted in the Refuge, and are typically found in both units of the Refuge during the winter season.

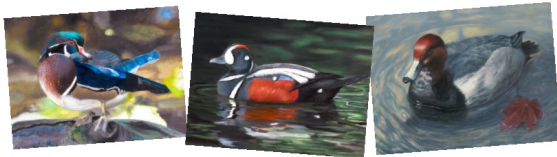
Males are usually between 15-23 inches long and weigh an average of 1.2 pounds, but the females are larger in size, ranging from 19-24 inches long and weighing approximately 1.5 pounds. Adult red-

of the national contest is used for the \$5 Junior Duck stamp, sales of which are used to provide funding for K-12 environmental education programs.

If interested in entering the contest, check out <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/> for details and entry applications. The deadline to enter this year's contest is March 15. Feel free to contact Michael Schramm with any questions at 360-753-9467 or by email at michael_schramm@fws.gov.

[For examples photos of waterfowl click here!](#)

Click the posters below to learn more, or for information about Duck Stamp curriculum:



ALL STUDENTS GRADES K-12:

ENTER THE 2017 FEDERAL JUNIOR DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST

Student artwork is judged in four groups according to grade level: K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Three first, three second, and three third place entries, along with 16 honorable mentions, are selected from each age group, so there are lots of winners who will each receive certificates, prizes, and recognition. Contest judges select one "Best of Show" from the 12 first place winners. Each state or territory "Best of Show" is entered in the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest which occurs in April. Inquire in the Visitor Center for contest details!

SUBMIT ENTRIES BY MARCH 15!



shouldered hawks have a brown head with red-orange colored underparts with dark brown streaks, and long yellow legs. Juveniles resemble the adults, but have creamy underparts with dark brown spots and streaks. Both adults and juveniles have reddish lesser secondary upper wing coverts, which give the impression of red shoulders. Their long tails are dark brown with white bands.

In the Western U.S., most populations are non-migratory. They build their nests about 20-60 feet above ground in the branches of deciduous trees in wet woodland areas, and like to perch on nearby dead trees for a clear view of the woody floor. Red-shouldered hawks pursue prey while perched on the top of a tree, or while soaring over woodlands. They kill their prey by dropping directly onto it from above. On occasion, they will fly low in open areas, taking creatures by surprise, and may use their hearing as well as sight to find prey. These resourceful birds may also store food near their nest to consume later.

Like most raptors, red-shouldered hawks have sharp vision and good hearing, with talons capable of killing prey almost equal to their own body size. They typically feast on small mammals, such as mice, moles or chipmunks, but have been known to go after a rabbit or squirrel on occasion. During winter, they may also prey on smaller birds commonly found at bird feeders. Blue jays, another potential prey, will often imitate the call of the red-shouldered hawk, and can be difficult to distinguish on voice alone.

Red-shouldered hawks are solitary and territorial. They do not form flocks, even in the winter. Their preferred breeding grounds are deciduous and mixed wooded regions, often close to water. Like nearly all raptors, the red-shouldered hawk is monogamous and territorial. While courting or defending territories, the characteristic, screaming *kee-aah call* (usually repeated several times in succession) can be heard. When courting, they will soar together in wide circles while calling, or soaring and diving toward one another. Males may also perform the *sky-dance* by soaring high in the air, and then making a series of steep descents, followed by a wide spiral and rapid



Federal Junior Duck Stamp Curriculum

Looking for a way to encourage natural appreciation through science and art? Do you have students who enjoy drawing or painting wildlife? This statewide program is available to ALL students K-12!

Details: This conservation and design program is a dynamic educational program designed to teach wetland habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. Using scientific and wildlife observation principles, the program helps students communicate visually what they have learned by creating an entry for the Junior Duck Stamp Program art contest. This non-traditional pairing of subjects brings new interest to both science and the arts. It crosses cultural, ethnic, social and geographic boundaries to teach greater awareness of our Nation's natural resources. Preparation for the Junior Duck Stamp contest and involvement in the program requires students to learn the fundamental principles of anatomy and environmental science, and can be a valid barometer of a student's grasp of these topics.

Date: In Washington State, art entries are due by March 15, 2017.

Questions: For curriculum information, entry and reference forms, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/> or contact the Washington State coordinator: Michael Schramm, Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR, 100 Brown Farm Rd, Olympia, WA 98516, (360) 753-9467, michael_schramm@fws.gov



BirdFest & Bluegrass Received Conservation Award

Speaking of Duck Stamps, the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge has received a 2016 Habitat Conservation Award! We received the award for contributing to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. The Friends invites everyone to copy this donation!

Donating to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is among the most cost-effective, direct, and successful investments in conservation that anyone can make. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar raised goes directly to acquire wetland and grassland habitat for the US National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1934, more than \$850 million has been raised through this program to purchase or lease more than 6 million acres. The Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is the account within the Refuge System into which Duck Stamp monies are deposited.

To learn more:
www.FWS.gov
www.landscape.org

The donation individuals can make to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund should be made out to USFWS (note "MBCF donation" in the check's the memo/for field) and mail it to:

Duck Stamp Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ascend. These courtship flights usually occur in late morning and early afternoon.

Mating season for the red-shouldered hawk is between April and July. The parents-to-be will build a nest of sticks in a major fork of a large tree, and often come back to use the same nest year after year. The pair typically produces three to four eggs, with an incubation period of 28-33 days. The hatchlings, which weigh just over an ounce, are brooded almost constantly by the female for up to 40 days. The male more often hunts for food, but is also known to incubate and brood on occasion. Pairs that nest earlier in the breeding season tend to lay more eggs, with higher productivity. The young hawks leave the nest at about six weeks old, but remain dependent on the parents until they are between 17-19 weeks of age. Breeding maturity is usually attained at one or two years of age.

Wild red-shouldered hawks live, on average, two to five years, but many of them will not survive their first year of life. For those that make it past the first year, they can potentially live up to 15-19 years.

Did you know: Red-shouldered hawks are known as hawks in North America, but are known as buzzards in Europe! By the time they are five days old, nestling Red-shouldered Hawks can shoot their feces over the edge of their nest. Bird poop on the ground is a sign of an active nest, and the oldest known red-shouldered hawk is said to have lived 19 years and 11 months.

Photo Credit: Lyn Topinka

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

5275 Leesburg Pike, MS-MB
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge received the Habitat Conservation Award from the Mindful Birding Project (www.mindfulbirding.org).

Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

What does "The Outdoors" mean to you?



YCC Youth from Ridgefield NMRC enjoyed an appreciation paddle along the waterways between the units of the Refuge.

This land *is* our land, but what it means to love the outdoors may not be the same for you and me. From Latinos in Lycra, to Korean politicians finding votes on trails, NPR's podcast [Code Switch](#) took a look at stereotypes and truths about people of color and their relationships with the outdoors in their episode, "[Made for you and Me.](#)" (aired on June 7th, 2016).

Recently, Refuge and Friends staff had a listen to this podcast and engaged in thoughtful discussion afterwards about some of our own preconceptions and how we might broaden our acceptance of different outdoor perspectives. It was a healthy experience that we encourage the Friends to try as well.

When we see that 80-95% of visitors to many of our public lands are white, it's easy to fall back on the simple assumption that people of color must not be into the outdoors. The truth, it turns out, is far more complex. It starts with the understanding that for many people of color, our shared 562 National Wildlife Refuges, 58 National Parks, and 154 National Forests are not seen as places for them.

As a child, growing up in a large family in the Pacific Northwest, nature was our playground. We played outside all the time. When it came time to take a family trip or vacation, the Oregon Coast and camping was our go-to.

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 or call (360) 887-4106.



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 [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?

What each of us got out of the trips was worth the process it took my parents to pack up seven kids, their bikes, tents, and food for a weekend at the beach. Our childhoods along the coast are much of the reason we all love the outdoors and find them to be an important part of our lives today.

But not everyone has these types of opportunities or upbringing. The outdoors can mean different things to different people, and not all of these meanings are positive.

The podcast discusses many people's strained relationships with the outdoors, including the pain of slavery, memories of segregated outdoor spaces, exclusion for dressing a certain way, and feeling unwelcome because no one participating in an outdoor activity looks like them.

Connecting with our growing urban audiences begins with understanding, and that starts with listening and asking questions. Taking the lead of Outdoor Afro, ask people what "the outdoors" is and be open to the answer. Does it include local parks, backyards, gardens, an empty lot? And what does it mean to them to connect with the outdoors?

Within these answers and our own feelings about urban nature and our beloved Refuges there are common threads that will help us expand our view of what the outdoors means. For instance, we know that simply getting there can be a hurdle, so Refuge and Friends staff at our Urban Refuges are working with current and future partners to coordinate safe transportation to not only our Refuges, but to other outdoor spaces closer to their communities.

So take a listen to Code Switch's "Made For You and Me," then consider the partners and groups you are working with and think about how you and your organization can look beyond the Blue Goose to reach urban audiences in places they feel welcome.

-Mesha Wood

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



[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

Gearing up for the New Year

Our autumn session of the Chinook Culture and Language class wrapped up mid-November. We were pleased to have Eric Bernardo, Cascade Chinook, return to the Plankhouse to continue sharing Chinookan Culture and lead this course. Eric has been a language teacher for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for a number of years and is a gifted storyteller with a great sense of humor. This session's participants included individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds including our city council, local law enforcement, volunteers from other local organizations, as well as Refuge volunteers and staff, and members from the surrounding community. Luckily for us, this session took place during the Storytelling Season and we were treated to a number of Chinookan tales each visit. We look forward to future class offerings in the future. Please contact us at plankhouse@gmail.com if you are interested in future Chinuk Wawa and Culture classes.



Volunteer opportunities at the Refuge will be here before you know it! Please keep us in mind when thinking about possible ways to give back through service to your community and the Refuge.

The coming year has many exciting things in store for our returning and new volunteers. In addition to our annual naturalist and docent training orientations in the spring, we have a robust volunteer enrichment program planned for 2017. Beginning in January, with the Friends Annual Dinner, and running through December, we will have social and educational opportunities to offer volunteers each month. Events will focus on occasions to further delve into the natural and cultural histories of our region. The specifics of our itinerary are still being finalized - suggestions on topics and activities are very welcome. Please contact Juliet McGraw at juliet_mcgraw@fws.gov for more information.

Upcoming Events:



December 6th- 6-8pm:
Learn about Pacific Lamprey at the Native American Student & Community Center!

Johnson Creek Watershed Council and the PSU Indigenous Nations Studies Program will host a talk on the cultural and scientific importance of Pacific Lamprey. These ancient native fish are both an important Native American food source as well as a scientific indicator of healthy watersheds. Join us to hear local lamprey expert and Umatilla Tribe member, Gabe Sheoships, discuss these fascinating fish.

RSVP for this FREE and fun event [HERE](#)



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

Questions? Contact Janel at janel@jwcw.org

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

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

Habitat Volunteers stayed busy in November, clearing and treating blackberries along the Oaks to Wetlands Trail, performing maintenance on older planting sites, spraying first year tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaeae*) and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) plants, and prepping cottonwood cuttings for future plantings.

In addition to my ongoing gratitude for the regular Refuge volunteers who put in countless habitat restoration hours, I would like to send a special "Thank You!" to the group of seniors from Ridgefield High School. These students spent their Thanksgiving weekend wading through wetlands, removing planting tubes, and enlarging beaver caging around maturing cottonwoods and willows. If tubes are not removed after the first few years they can eventually damage trees, and beaver cages must be enlarged to accommodate growth.

We have several older planting sites that still need work so if you would like to come out and help "Free the Trees" with us we will be continuing with this effort on Wednesday volunteer work days throughout December.



Poison Hemlock
Ragwort



Tansy

Questions? Contact Keith_Rutz@fws.gov for more information

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- the Pelican Brewing Company 50th Anniversary T-shirt, as well as our Chinookan Steller's Jay T-shirt, and our Photo Contest Calendar, 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. 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: Marguerite Hills

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