



November 2016

BirdFest and Bluegrass 2016 a Success!

Thank you to everyone who made BirdFest & Bluegrass 2016 a success!

It was a great weekend! We had some delicious food provided by the Ridgefield Lions, wonderful craft vendors, and kids crafts at Davis Park, birding with Vancouver Audubon, tons of great Cathlapotle Plankhouse activities including kids crafts, our "Imagine" tent for the future Visitor/Education Center, the Traditional Salmon Bake, Portland Audubon birds on display, awesome volunteers, amazing presenters, Sandhill Crane Tours, Audubon Naturalist Staffed Spotting Scopes, Promised Land Documentary screening, Bluegrass music, a little bit of rain and...FUN! We also want to give a shout out to our new BirdFest Coordinator this year, Alexandra Danielsen! Thank you for helping us make this event happen! We hope BirdFest & Bluegrass 2016 was enjoyed by all!



A special thanks to the sponsors of this year's BirdFest: Pro Photo Supply, Backyard BirdShop, Costco Wholesale, The Port of Ridgefield, NW Natural, US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, Ridgefield Business Association, Ridgefield Kayak, Ridgefield Lions, The Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, City of Ridgefield, Shorty's Nursery, Maul Foster Alongi, Pacific Northwest Best Fish Co., Columbia Sportswear, Vancouver Audubon, Audubon Society of Portland, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, and Columbia Credit Union!

Photo Contest Calendars, Just in time for Holiday Shopping!

Calendars available soon!

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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!

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



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. They will be available after November 7th, and their release will be announced in an email, so keep an eye out!

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

Congratulations 2016 Photo Contest Winners!

To see all the photos that will be included, and all the winners of the [2016 Refuge Photo Contest](#), [click here!](#)

#GivingTuesday- November 29th, 2016

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™
November 29, 2016

"Created by the team at the Belfer Center for Innovation & Social Impact at the 92nd Street Y— a cultural center in New York City that, since 1874, has been bringing people together around the values of service and giving back— #GivingTuesday connects diverse groups of individuals, communities and organizations around the world for one common purpose: to celebrate and encourage giving. #GivingTuesday harnesses the potential of social media and the generosity of people around the world to bring about real change in their communities.

As a global movement, #GivingTuesday unites countries around the world by sharing our capacity to care for and empower one another."

(<https://www.givingtuesday.org/about>)

So help us this #GivingTuesday and support the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Our unique education programs, the Cathlapotle Plankhouse, Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Management won't exist without support from amazing donors and Friends like you!

You can Join the Friends, and become a member for just a minimum \$25 donation-- which comes with perks like access to members-only events, special announcements, a

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

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Annual Membership Dinner

It is getting to be that time of year again, where shopping and family and friends and fun start to take up all your available calendar space, and the Friends understand that! So this year, it has been decided to move our annual meeting to the first part of 2017. Keep an eye out in our newsletters and email announcements for more info, coming soon!

Ridgefield First Saturday: Wine and Chocolate Gratitude Festival

Saturday, November 5, 2016



LOCATION: Downtown Ridgefield

First Saturday and the SW Washington Wine Association are partnering to create the Wine & Chocolate Gala. Sip delicious local wines paired with decadent chocolates or foods prepared with chocolate - or buy a bottle to take home. Hand painted wine glasses prepared just for this event, apple press for making apple cider, and candy jar guessing game. Hang out, listen to live music all day featuring UpFront Band, enjoy some hot food and shop the vendors.

11AM-6PM @ Overlook Park - 21 and over only

Tents, heating and seating available. \$10 entrance fee includes glass, 5-\$1 tasting tokens. Additional tokens are \$1. First 200 event-goers receive a hand-painted wine glasses.

member card with discounts to local businesses--and donors over the \$50 level can receive an annual refuge pass!

Don't want to become a member? You can donate too! We have a variety of payment levels to choose from, and if you don't see an amount there that you would like to donate, let us know and we will get you a link to pay whatever works for you, every little bit helps.

We can't do this without your support, so join the movement, support us on the biggest giving day of the year, #GivingTuesday!

To Join Us or Donate on November 29th, head to our website:
here: <https://ridgefieldfriends.org/volunteer-support/join-the-friends/>

Saying Goodbye

Lindsey Karr- Bulrush Coordinator



It's been a pleasure to work with the Friends this summer! I really enjoyed working with the staff and our incredible volunteers. Together, we pulled 23,830 invasive ricefield bulrush plants from four wetlands... take that, bulrush! We had 96 volunteers who gave 872

hours to improve habitat by removing this invasive plant. I am impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of so many, and I am very thankful for the help. My knowledge of wetland plants and wildlife grew so much, and it was a privilege to explore wetlands all over the Refuge as I searched for bulrush. -Lindsey Karr

From the River 'S' Contact Station

This is our second volunteer profile for the Contact Station. We would like to introduce you to Virginia Scott, our Monday afternoon volunteer. Virginia has been at the Contact Station for about four years. But that is not all Virginia does for the refuge. Through a refuge program for volunteers, she participated in a four-part training session on interpreting natural and



cultural history. She is now a Certified Interpretive Guide. Her Anthropology degree comes in handy as she has functioned as a docent with the refuge education programs. But her volunteer activities don't stop there. You might see her in the staff office helping to count entry fees and the data from refuge entry envelopes and green tickets. (That is why it is important to fill out a green ticket every time you visit the refuge when you hold some kind of pass. We do count all the information on

Glasses of wine and bottles are available for purchase.

LOTS of chocolate:

- Chocolate fondue by A Merry Heart Events
- Chocolate cooking demonstration by Sage Organics
- Chocolate chili & blood orange brownies by Buckets
- Chocolate sourdough bread by BakerChics
- Local chocolatiers & food vendors
- Free samples & MORE

Apple Cider Making by Spudders Crest Farmer's Market Vendors

LIVE MUSIC: Elton Frice & Ryan Fitzgerald; Upfront Band

Wineries include: Emanar Cellars, English Estate Winery, Heisen House Vineyards, Burnt Bridge Cellars, Olequa Cellars, Rezabek Vineyards, Stavalaura Vineyard, Koi Pond Cellars and more!

10AM-4PM Chickadee Arts & Crafts Bazaar @ Ridgefield Community Center

Sponsored by the Ridgefield Art Association

Non-alcoholic wine tasting, arts & craft sales by local artisans, chocolate samples. All Ages are Welcome!

7:30PM Concert @ Old Liberty Theater: Be-Bop & Beyond Jazz Concert

All Day Around Town:

- Ridgefield Marketplace - all wine 15% off
- Chocolate Bar and Hot Chocolate - Old Liberty Theater
- Candy Jar Guessing Game @ participating merchants
- Gratitude Graffiti - write what you are thankful for

Visit merchants around town for more chocolate tastings, wine & chocolate based products and lots of specials!!

Visit the [City of Ridgefield Page](#) for a gallery of sponsors and vendors.

Board Seeking New Members!

those tickets and the envelopes. It helps fund the refuge.)

Virginia most enjoys working with kids. "They are so curious and have open minds. I love that they are always asking, 'What's that?'" She says her goal is to have kids fall in love with the refuge. She sees the refuge as her place of refuge also. It's a place, "to disconnect and be somewhere beautiful." You might see her driving the refuge after her Monday time in the Contact Station. She always has her camera with her to take advantage of the late daylight. We have many photographers visiting the refuge and Virginia says she has learned so much from them about how to best use her power shot camera. The refuge recently used one of her dragonfly photos on our volunteer handout. She is very proud of that photo. When talking about her late afternoon tours of the refuge, she has many great encounters to share. One in particular was an opportunity to watch Short-eared Owls, one of our winter visitors. She sat for 25 minutes watching two owls interact, bobbing their heads at each other, establishing their relationship. She felt so lucky; it was an extraordinary experience. Stop and chat with Virginia when you get an opportunity. She will be happy to share her experiences, help you find that sweet spot for a crane photo or answer any 'What's that?' questions you might have.

Reporting from the River 'S' Contact Station- Susan Setterberg, Volunteer



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

"Ridgefield Refuge Aims to Expand it's Embrace"



The Columbian wrote a great article about some of the goals already accomplished on Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and how the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are working with the Urban Wildlife Conservation Initiative team, and the community, to make big things happen for the City of Ridgefield, and beyond; with our proposed Nature/Education Center: [Click HERE for the article](#)

Photo Credit: Steve DiPaola for The Columbian

Did you know?



BatWeek was October 24th - 31st, 2016!

Just in time for Halloween, the people at [Bat Conservation International](#), the [U.S. Forest Service](#), and the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (and many more organizations) remind us that while bats are lumped in with other spooky things-- like Ghosts, Witches and Vampires-- bats are actually amazing mammals that are important to our eco-system and economy. They work through the

Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Endangered Columbian White-Tailed Deer Move Toward Recovery



(Columbian white-tailed deer have settled into the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge since 2013 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service relocated 88 deer to the protected habitat. K. Meyer/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

After nearly 50 years on the endangered species list, Columbian White-Tailed Deer are finally moving out of the danger zone.

Since 1967, when they were put on the endangered species list, they have more than doubled their numbers along the Columbia River.

The down-listing was announced at a special event held at the Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon in Ridgefield on October 13th. Honored guests and project partners who spoke at the event include:

Robyn Thorson- (USFWS Pacific Region's Regional Director
Ron Onslow- Mayor City of Ridgefield

Chris Lapp- Project Leader RNWR Complex

Jackie Ferrier- Project Leader Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Patty Kinswa- Gaiser Cowlitz Tribal Chairman (Prayer and Song)

Michael Bean- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for Department of Interior

William B. Iyall- Chairman, Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Jim Unsworth- Director, WDFW

Curt Melcher- Director, ODFW

Refuge staff and volunteers with the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge have planted more than 30,000 trees throughout the refuge in key places to create ideal habitat for the white-tailed deer, and we have seen the population of the deer grow to at least 110.

The hard work of all these partners is truly paying off in a very rewarding way. Check out the article below for more information about how the Refuge and partners have achieved this goal, and what this means for the future of Columbian White-Tailed Deer, as they go from Endangered to Threatened, to- hopefully soon- Recovered.

night eating bugs, pollinating plants and spreading seeds. They are also the only mammal to truly fly, while some mammals can glide, bats are the only ones with powered flight. Worldwide, there are more than 1,300 species of bats, that's almost 20% of all mammal species! The bats found on Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge include: Little brown myotis, California myotis, Big brown bat, Hoary bat, Western red bat, Yuma bat. Silver-haired bat, Long-legged bat, and the Western long-eared bat. To see a little bit of information on each of these species of bat, check out our [Facebook page here](#), where you can see our BatWeek posts, featuring each of the above listed bats.

Many of these bat species can be seen at dusk swooping through the trees and over water, catching bugs. But, as with many mammals, they are capable of sensing humans long before they are seen, so they can be hard to spot, and they move very quickly. Please follow the gate programming.

For more information on why bats are great, and what [#BatWeek](#) is about, check out the Bat Conservation International page here: <http://www.batweek.org>.

Species Spotlight

Tundra Swan

Cygnus columbianus

Trumpeter Swan

Cygnus buccinator



It's that time of year again, for the swans to return to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge! Both Tundra and Trumpeter swans arrive in early

<http://www.opb.org/news/article/columbian-white-tailed-deer-move-toward-recovery/>

Online Collaboration Gets a Makeover



Fall is pretty synonymous with change. Leaves take on different colors, wetlands fill with water and waterfowl, and people start looking a lot cuddlier in all those new layers of clothes. This month's Urban Refuge Support Team nugget recognizes another change in our community – a digital upgrade for one of the Portland-Vancouver area's largest environmental coalitions, The Intertwine Alliance.

If you visit theintertwine.org you'll find a new look and new way to navigate the area's greenspaces, Alliance projects, and partner organizations. Notable features include a brand new [interactive map](#) of parks and trails, an [events calendar](#) showcasing activities from across the Alliance's 150+ partners, and the [Outside Voice blog](#). Be sure to check out the [first blog post](#) of the new website, featuring the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and written by (and picturing) our very own Urban Refuge Support Team. Are you asking a more basic question right now? Like, what's The Intertwine Alliance? No problem. This is a great opportunity to be [introduced](#). Click on the cute little owl next to "The Alliance" and you'll be taken to a wealth of information and see that the [USFWS](#), [Friends of Tualatin River NWR](#) and [Friends of Ridgefield NWR](#) are already Alliance partners.

In terms of the intersection with the Urban Refuge Program, the Intertwine Alliance has been a big part of our early years – forming a cornerstone of the proposal that resulted in the program and working with us to advance efforts in health & nature, equity & inclusion, environmental education, and public engagement. This new website, in fact, was one of the early investments of the Urban Refuge Program as we sought new and innovative ways to support community coalitions. While we directly supported the project with funding and website design assistance, there is a lot of pride we can all take in this upgraded resource, as we are all part of making our

November, and stay throughout the winter. Large flocks of swans can be seen in many of the shallow waterways such as Carty Lake.

Trumpeter swans, which can weigh more than 25 pounds, and measure up to 6 feet in length, are similar in appearance to the smaller Tundra Swan, but, if you have a good pair of binoculars, you can see that the Tundra Swan has a little bit of yellow at the base of its bill, while the Trumpeters do not. Tundra Swans are about half the size of the Trumpeter Swans, and they swim and fly with their necks completely extended straight, while Trumpeters swim and fly with their neck in that graceful curve most think of when imagining a swan.

Both of these species of Swan will tip forward in the water like a duck to feed on aquatic plants under the water, but they also shuffle their feet in the mud, much like the early women of the Quathlapotle (now Cathlapotle) village, as observed by Lewis and Clark, to bring the Wapato to the surface for some fine winter dining.

Family pairs of Trumpeter Swans can be seen mixed in with the Tundra Swans on Carty lake, where they can be heard all the way the Refuge office. Their call sounds like a honking car, compared to the Tundra Swan's variety of bugling calls that are smoother and higher pitched than those of the Trumpeter Swan. A characteristic whistling in Tundra Swan's wings led Meriwether Lewis to call them "whistling swans," a name still in use. Tundra swans are much more abundant than Trumpeter swans, as the Trumpeters were hunted nearly to extinction for their pristine white feathers.

Young swans of both species are called cygnets. Cygnets and their parents stay together as a family unit throughout the winter. First year cygnets, born the previous summer, are visually identifiable from their parents. The feathers of cygnets appear dirty (grayish) when compared to the pure white feathers of adult birds. Also, the bills of cygnets have some orange coloration in places where adult swan bills are black.

Did you know: Trumpeter Swans need

Urban Refuges assets to the community.

If you're still wondering how helping to build a website advances conservation, we leave you with this excerpt from the aforementioned blog post:

"The Intertwine Alliance...thrives on its ability to convene and collaborate among groups working on common goals... the new website is a great step forward in supporting this collaborative spirit online. While perhaps not perfected, it is a tool that stands to benefit all of us, and was thus an easy choice for the Urban Program to get behind."

Questions and feedback about the website are welcome. And if you'd like to discuss edits to the profile pages for the Friends, feel free to contact Patrick Stark at patrick_stark@fws.gov.

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

Native American Heritage Month is Here, How Will you be Celebrating?

Over BirdFest weekend, hundreds of visitors came to the Plankhouse to learn about Chinookan lifeways and culture during our season ending celebration. Though the Plankhouse is closed until April 16, 2017, there are lots of events happening around SW Washington and Oregon that will be highlighting Native cultures throughout Native American Heritage Month and beyond. Check out the ideas below to learn more about local Native American culture.

Friday, November 4 • 5 to 10 p.m. | FREE
Educating for the 7th Generation: Celebrating Indigenous Cultures Pow Wow

This evening of music, dance and community highlights traditions and customs that practice living in harmony with all things so that the seventh generation of years to come enjoys Earth's gifts as we do today. Learn about contemporary culture at information and native arts and craft booths.

at least 300 feet of open water to get airborne. They "run" across the water with a noise like galloping hooves. Tundra Swans, on the other hand, can take off quickly from either land or water.

*Tundra Swan Photo by Jim Cruce, 2088
Photo Contest Honorable Mention*

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 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-

Clark College, Gaiser Hall Student Center,
diversity@clark.edu

Saturday, November 12 • 1 to 4 p.m. | FREE
Native Runway: A Celebration of Regalia, Culture and Song

November's Second Saturday adds an extra hour to celebrate the Water Resources Education Center's 20th anniversary and showcase native communities. Once again, dancers will walk down the red runway in native regalia - clothing and adornment unique to each dancer. They will share their personal stories and invite the audience to join in a friendship dance. This year, families can also:

- Hear about First Peoples of Oregon and Washington
- View a 30-foot Chinook cedar canoe, called Itsxut
- Listen to stories of recent Canoe Journeys
- Play native games of chance
- Paint feathers and try other activities

For more info, contact Cory Samia at the Water Resources Education Center: cory.samia@cityofvancouver.us

See Contemporary Indigenous Art, and Walk the Land Bridge

The artwork of two amazing contemporary indigenous artists, Lillian Pitt and Toma Villa, are currently on display at the Ft. Vancouver Visitor's Center. You can learn more about this exhibit and the featured artists on the Friends of Ft. Vancouver page here: <http://www.friendsfortvancouver.org/>

After taking in the exhibit, you can take a leisurely stroll over the Vancouver Land Bridge, a large scale art installation that opened in 2008 as part of the Confluence Project. On this walk you can learn about many aspects of local Native culture and lifeways, and stretch your legs at the same time! More information about the land bridge can be found here: <http://www.confluenceproject.org/project-sites/vancouver-land-bridge/> .

Promised Land Documentary Update:



"We are coming to California! Not only will we be in San Francisco on November 7, but we are

thrilled to announce that the 10th Annual La Skins Fest has selected our work as well as nominated it for an 'Achievement in Documentary Filmmaking' award. The film will play the historic TCL Chinese Theater November 20 at 1 p.m. in the closing day of the festival. Members from the Duwamish and Chinook tribes will be there to speak in a post-screening panel on federal recognition and sovereignty.

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

See all of our LA friends next month!"
 Event listing: <http://laskinsfest.com/shows/promised-land/>
 Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/177638526>

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

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

October brought needed rain to the refuge. As the wetlands refill and waterfowl arrive, we turn our attention to treatment of upland invasive species and preparation for winter plantings. Volunteer Wednesdays in November will focus on reducing himalayan blackberries (*Rubus discolor*) among the white oaks (*Quercus garryana*), and identifying patches of shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) for winter treatment.

We are also looking for volunteers who would like to collect and propagate native plants for restoration plantings. Ideally volunteers will have some horticultural experience and suitable space for propagating cuttings and seed plantings.

For more information or to sign up for a volunteer email: keith_rutz@fws.gov or call 360-887-3883



Himalayan Blackberry



Shiny Geranium in bloom



White Oak

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



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

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. 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: Gretchen Thompson 2010 Photo Contest Honorable Mention

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