



January 2017

## Thank you Members and Donors!

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge want to thank all our new and renewing members this year, as well as our very generous donors and sponsors. Without you, we would not be able to offer the programs that we do. Both our education and habitat restoration efforts are bolstered by your support and our ability to use those funds to buy supplies, staff events, maintain the Plankhouse and other public areas, and train amazing volunteers to staff the contact station, lead tours and field trips, remove invasive species and plant trees, and so much more. Our refuge is unique in so many ways, and almost none of it would be possible without your continued support. We are forever thankful.



### In 2016 your donations have helped support:

- Over 300 volunteer visits and over 1,210 hours of bulrush work and regular invasive with volunteer projects, including plantings and planting maintenance.
- Over 114,000 visitors to the Refuge this year
- 12,373 people participating in interpretive programs such as Plankhouse events and visits, guided hikes, and public events such as BirdFest
- 3,300 students were served on and off site
- 625 total volunteers (including the Habitat program)
- 8,500 total volunteer hours across all of our programs!

**Thank you for your support!**

## Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Annual Membership Dinner

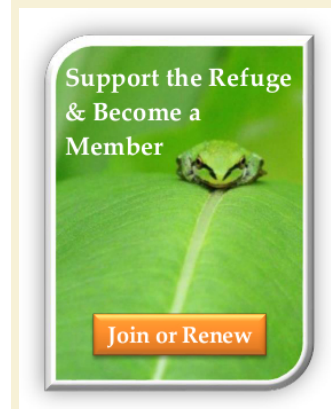
Save the date! The Friend's Annual Member Dinner will be:  
Sunday, January 22nd  
2-4pm

(Click to see larger)

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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!

Winter restoration efforts are underway! Check out the Habitat Restoration section of this newsletter for info and

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge cordially invites you to:

**Volunteer and Member Appreciation Meeting & Dinner**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 | 2:00 - 4:00pm  
Ridgefield Community Center  
210 N. Main Ave. | Ridgefield, WA 98642

The Refuge Chef is generously providing the main dish for our guests.

**Can't wait to see you there!**

\* Please feel free to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share!

RSVP "YES" by January 18, 2017: Email - [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) or call 360-887-9495 and leave a message (RSVP for Yes Only, Please)



**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](#)

**Photo Contest Calendars, Still Available!**



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 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 contact us at [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) with questions.

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

**Don't want to pay shipping?**  
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!  
(Cash or check please!)

who to contact to sign up.

To become an education or 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: Health and Fitness Festival**

Saturday, January 7, 2017



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. Health eating information sessions, too. Get moving and get motivated.

**9:00AM Event Kick-Off @ Ridgefield Community Center**  
Tom Sanchez, Chief Operating Officer of Vancouver Clinic. Learn about Vancouver Clinic's plans for the City of Ridgefield.

**9AM - 3PM Health & Fitness Expo @ Ridgefield Community Center**

**LARGE ROOM - VENDORS**  
Include: Vancouver Clinic, Red Cross, YMCA, Yoga Garden, Sage Organics massage, Ridgefield Kayak, a chiropractor, horticulture Therapy, physical therapist, fitness professionals, skin products, essential oils, aromatherapy & MORE!

**FOOD VENDORS:** With a focus on local & organic including BUCKETS and HERB N'ROOTS.

**SMALL ROOM - CLASSES & ACTIVITIES** - Join one or all:

**10:30AM** - Free body scans and fitness activities by

## From the River 'S' Contact Station



As I write this, just before Christmas, I am a bit frustrated that we were unable to conduct the Sauvie Island/Ridgefield Christmas Bird Count on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>. The weather on both sides of the river was so awful, it wasn't safe to bring people into the areas for our bird count. We have, however, rescheduled for January 2<sup>nd</sup> and are keeping our fingers crossed the day will be better for birds and birders. This Christmas time tradition of going out and counting all the birds you see in a designated circle goes back 117 years now.

It was started as a counterpoint to the Christmas bird shoot where hunters would go out and shoot every bird they would see. Since at least 1967, Ridgefield NWR has been an important part of the Sauvie Island/Ridgefield circle. Fifteen miles in diameter, the circle encompasses all the refuge, extending north to the Lewis River and south to, not-quite, the bottom of Vancouver Lake, and east to just beyond I-5 around the Carty Road area. Sauvie Island is included in the western-most portion of the circle.

Birders volunteer to do the counts and are given a territory within the circle to count. On the refuge, we have teams on the River S and Carty units, and the generally off limits segments: the Roth, Bachelor Island and the hunt unit. Of course, the latter is only surveyed on a non-hunt day. Other teams are scanning the town of Ridgefield and its parks, the Vancouver Lowlands south of the refuge, the farm lands surrounding the area on the ridge above the refuge and the Salmon Creek/Burnt Bridge trail. Birds can be anywhere. The birders submit their lists along with the hours they counted, miles driven and miles walked. The more intrepid birders will be out before dawn and after dusk to listen for and count owls and submitting owling hours. The effort of hours and distance helps to normalize the end results from year to year. Data from these counts helps identify trends in the health of bird populations as habitats change.

Over the last three years, the Ridgefield teams have identified at least 128 different species of birds in our collective territory. We have averaged over 33,000 individuals counted with, no surprise, the Cackling Goose being the most numerous, averaging over 11,000/year. Tundra Swans, always a refuge favorite, ranged from 816 to over 1600 in that same three-year period. Someone always spots a single Orange-crowned Warbler or Yellow-rumped Warbler; two birds that probably were wishing they were farther south with their friends. Last year, we had an unusual sighting of Tree Swallows, which stayed around for the winter. We see a nice variety of ducks of course, with Mallards being the most numerous and Cinnamon Teal getting on our list if we are lucky. Amazingly, we have averaged 43 Bald Eagles. The Red-tailed Hawk is our most numerous raptor, over 100 counted each year, but we pretty much see all the expected raptors every year including Red-Shouldered Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine, and Northern Harrier. It is a bonanza of hunting raptors out there in winter. If conditions are right and there are muddy edges and open water, we can find a few shorebirds on the refuge. Dunlin, Dowitcher and Western Sandpipers have been reported. Wilson's Snipe and Killdeer are always around. Looking for Great Horned Owls? We do have them. We counted 12 last year. That includes some of the farm area up on the ridge above the refuge too. If the timing is right, you might find a Barn Owl also.

So, whether you are participating in the local Christmas Count, or just out for a winter ride to see what you can see, there are plenty of birds out there to enjoy. And if you see people wandering around with

Unleashed Fitness NW

**11AM** - "Tweak Yourself Talk" presentation by Shannon Meade, Supporting Balance

**11:30AM** - Plank challenge by Tailored Fitness

**12:30PM** - Body wellness & stretching by Ray-O-Hope

**1:00PM** - Drum Circle "Planet Drums" by Opus School of Music

**2:00PM** - Zumba

**PRIZE DRAWINGS** throughout the day for those who participate in any health or fitness activity.

**10:00AM: Fun walk/runs for all ages** begin @ Davis Park. An easy 1-mile walk/run along the waterfront & a more challenging 3-mile run throughout downtown Ridgefield and Abrams Park trails.

- 9:50AM - Warm Up for the run by Tailored Fitness
- All runners receive a coupon for a free smoothie prepared by Season Coffee Shop. First 30 runners receive a free t-shirt.

**ALL DAY:** Visit local merchants and enjoy outdoor fitness by walking through downtown, biking along the waterfront, hiking a trail at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge or creating a game at one of the four downtown City parks.

**ADMISSION IS FREE FOR ALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.**

Visit the [City of Ridgefield Page](#) for the photo gallery and more!

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## Board Seeking New Members!



binoculars peering into bushes on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> this year, you will know they are Citizen Scientists counting for our Christmas Bird Count.

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



## Bird Sightings

### Your 2017 Sightings

The Friends want to know what you are seeing this coming year! If you see a rare bird, or catch a great shot of something on the refuge, we would love to see it, and maybe even share it! The Friends are constantly looking for images to include with social media posts, in our Enews, and more!



If you see something on the refuge and catch a photo of it you'd like to share, send it our way to [contact@Ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@Ridgefieldfriends.org), and include the name of who we should credit. We can't wait to see what you are seeing!

Photo Credit: Gary Davenport

## Community and Nature Center at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

### Project Update:

"Amazing stories of indigenous people, migrating wildlife, endangered species recovery, and the tremendous human benefits of connecting with nature await visitors to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. A Community & Nature Center would be the gateway to the great outdoors the Refuge currently lacks — a portal to discovery of wildlife and native culture.

The commitment to help fund these facilities at Ridgefield NWR is strong within the community — a shared goal that has ignited a sense of stewardship from public and private organizations. Community support is essential."

Check out the most recent project update on our future Community and Nature Center, the project status and goals, and how you can help:

(Click this poster to view larger or download)

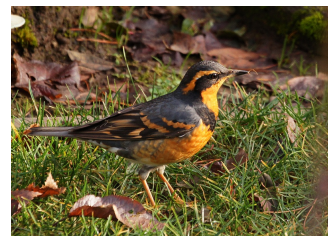
The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is looking to expand its Board Membership. The Board is seeking individuals with a deep passion for the environment and wildlife, appreciation of the area's rich cultural heritage, maintenance and restoration of habitat, and environmental and cultural 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](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org)

## Species Spotlight

### Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*



The Varied Thrush is a member of the thrush family, Turdidae. This eye-catching beauty is commonly seen throughout the Pacific Northwest year-round, and is frequently spotted in the Refuge.

The size of this stunning, bashful bird typically ranges from 8 to 10 inches in length.





## Community & Nature Center at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Project Update

Imagine...

**Home to Incredible Stories**  
Amazing stories of indigenous people, migrating wildlife, endangered species recovery, and the tremendous human benefits of connecting with nature await visitors to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. A Community & Nature Center would be the gateway to the great outdoors the Refuge currently lacks—a portal to discovery of wildlife and native culture.

**Gateway to Nature**  
The Center is envisioned as a community asset and transition space between urban living and a deeper immersion in nature found at the Refuge. Several community development projects are already expanding connectivity to the Refuge and supporting this transition concept, including trail and sidewalk improvements on and off refuge, a refuge-themed downtown plaza, and a new gateway to the Refuge at the Port of Ridgefield.

**A Place for Shared Goals**  
The Community & Nature Center will focus on four core areas: Community, Culture, Education, and Nature. Proposed features supporting these core areas include a community room, cultural and nature-themed exhibits, demonstration habitat areas, and nature play space. The Center will also include desperately needed staff and program space that will allow the Refuge to support a much greater menu of educational opportunities for visitors and partners.

**Honoring Community Voices**  
The Refuge, with support from the Friends of the Refuge, has implemented an inclusive process in developing the conceptual design of the Community & Nature Center by holding two open houses, engaging visitors at the annual Birdfest and Bluegrass event, and conducting listening sessions with community partners throughout the Portland-Vancouver region.

**Partner Support**  
The City of Ridgefield, Port of Ridgefield, Clark County schools and many local non-profits have been strong proponents of the Community & Nature Center at Ridgefield, recognizing the Refuge as core to the quality of life in the community while understanding that its potential is unrealized by its lack of adequate visitor facilities.



### Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

- Welcomes 180,000 annual visitors (and growing)
- Attracts 3,000 students annually to educational programs
- Is a high-priority Urban National Wildlife Refuge serving diverse communities across the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area

### Project Status

- The Ridgefield Community & Nature Center is ranked the #1 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service visitor center priority in the Pacific Region. **Due to limitations of the Service's construction budget, the project is currently not funded.**
- In Fiscal Year 2016, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Pacific Region Headquarters provided \$116,840 to begin conceptual design of the Community & Nature Center. The Refuge contributed an additional \$27,100 to this effort.
- The current cost estimate for offices and a visitor center is \$9.53 million based on a total 11,080 square feet. This number includes site work, utilities, engineering fees, construction and inspection. Conceptual design work currently underway will result in revised and more detailed figures.
- The commitment to help fund these facilities at Ridgefield NWR is strong within the community—a shared goal that has limited a sense of stewardship from public and private organizations. **Community support is essential.**



For more information contact:  
Chris Lapp, Project Leader  
christopher\_lapp@fws.gov  
(360) 887-4106



Created December 2016

## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



### Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

#### Urban Update - December 2016



(A family enjoying the Gibbons Creek Wildlife Art Trail at Steigerwald Lake NWR)

#### Hello from the Urban Support Team (Kim, Jenny, Pat, & Mesha),

Our team works alongside both Refuge complexes to help meet the Standards of Excellence and to connect with non-traditional audiences of the USFWS. With a lot of ground to cover (literally) our work often takes us off-site. To better stay connected to you and each other (as you will note later, all four of us no longer report to the same Refuge) we would like to take this opportunity to update and to provide opportunities for you to get involved or inquire more about a specific program or project we are focusing on.

Its size is comparable to the American Robin, although the Varied Thrush tends to be shorter with a robust build and short tail. The striking colors of the male Varied Thrush feature a slate-gray back and breast band with a bright, burnt-orange breast and belly. Females display a more brown-colored back and lighter brown breast band.

The Varied Thrush breeds in the dark undergrowth of humid evergreen forests along the Pacific Coast. In the winter, many move into dense parks, gardens and back yards.

Only the careful bird watcher will catch a glimpse of this timid beauty. Although resembling a Robin, the Varied Thrush is far more elusive, usually feeding on the ground in dense thickets. They will hop on the ground or low in shrubs or trees, feasting mainly on insects in summer, and nuts and fruit in the fall and winter months. In winter, Varied Thrushes will also eat seed from ground feeders. Planting native fruiting shrubs is also a nice way to attract them into your yard.

The Varied Thrush's ethereal song penetrates the dense, tranquil forests of the Pacific Northwest, with its massive conifers and wet thicket of ferns, mosses and shrubs. With long whistles repeated after calculated pauses, its song may be challenging to distinguish, sounding almost as if without a source. In breeding territories, the male Varied Thrush will perch on branches and trill their haunting melodies. Louis Agassiz Fuertes, a twentieth-century bird artist, described the Varied Thrush's simple, meditative song "as perfectly the voice of the cool, dark peaceful solitude which the bird chooses for its home as could be imagined."

Varied Thrushes are altitudinal migrants, and commonly breed at middle to higher elevations, heading down into the lowlands

**Jenny:** I have been working with a group called the Youth Mentoring Collaborative to put on an environmental job fair for youth in the Portland Metro area. In addition to Jenny's work helping coordinate the event, the USFWS is providing funding and staff support for the event. Check out this video, a youth involved in the group produced, to learn more about the fair. [https://youtu.be/Eh\\_LHY9EXAA](https://youtu.be/Eh_LHY9EXAA)

The Urban Team continues its backing of the Intertwine Alliance's diversity and equity initiative by providing some funding for additional staff support to the Intertwine Alliance to fulfil this mission. The initiative is in the process of creating cohorts of organizations based on their interests and current work. Together these cohorts will choose a provider to help guide them in this work.

**Pat:** The Daycation Mobile App is now available in the Apple AppStore for those interested in a sneak peek. The USFWS and its Intertwine Alliance partners are busily engaging more partners to create Daycations and become Beta Testers. We are also collaborating on a youth engagement program that will give teams of teens the opportunity to learn about technology, public engagement, and connecting with nature while engaging in a friendly competition to create and get people to take Daycations. Contact Pat at [patrick\\_stark@fws.gov](mailto:patrick_stark@fws.gov) for more information. The Oregon Zoo Education Center is opening in March 2017, and the USFWS will have a big presence there - one example being a large touch-screen display being developed in cooperation with Metro. The screen will display an interactive map of the greater Portland-Vancouver region and highlight its many parks, greenspaces, and of course, National Wildlife Refuges. The Urban Refuge Support Team has been assisting by creating display content for the refuges, including photo galleries and short, eye-catching videos.

**Mesha:** To better support both Refuge complexes, I am now stationed at Ridgefield NWR. To ensure we have better representation at meetings, events, and opportunities to listen and support our Refuge staff and Friends up north, I will report to Ridgefield daily. I am best reachable at my work cell at 971-336-1042 or at [mesha\\_wood@fws.gov](mailto:mesha_wood@fws.gov). Feel free to call the main office as well, at 360-887-4106 or to stop by the office and say hi should you visit.

The Urban Refuge Support Team is helping with the effort to develop a Community and Nature Center at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. We are in a perspective-gathering phase of the project, ensuring that a diverse collection of voices are part of developing a concept for the Center. With the help of Ridgefield NWR and Friends staff, we are planning focus groups for January that will seek input specifically from organizations serving youth in the Clark County area.



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*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.*

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## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Update & Events

in winter. In late winter and early spring, they may wander toward more exposed areas; and in the later spring they return to their breeding area.

During nesting, the female typically chooses the site and builds the nest, usually in a conifer at the base of a branch against the trunk. Nests are usually about 5-15 feet off the ground and poorly camouflaged. The female gathers the nest materials and weaves a rugged, outer layer of various twigs, a middle layer with somewhat softer materials, such as rotten wood, moss or mud, and then lines the inside with fine grasses, moss, and dead leaves.

The female will usually produce between 3-4 eggs, which are pale blue dotted with brown spots. The incubation period is about 2 weeks, and both parents feed the nestlings. When hatched, their eyes are closed and the bodies are mostly bare with sporadic patches of gray down. They raise two broods in a season when possible.

Varied Thrushes are currently still common, but are vulnerable to loss of habitat due to deforestation throughout their range.

**Did you know:** There is an extremely rare variant of this species in which all the orange in the plumage is replaced by white. A very rare British wanderer in 1982 was of this type, leading to speculation that whatever mutation causes the color variation also affects the navigational abilities of this thrush. There have been only 5 recorded sightings since 1921.

Varied Thrushes are often aggressive toward each other and other bird species. At feeders, males sometimes defend small feeding areas, where they dominate sparrows, blackbirds, cowbirds, towhees and juncos.



## Opportunities to Hear Indigenous Voices

Whether mythological or a personal narrative, story helps connect people to their place in the world, and with each other. February provides several ways to experience Native storytelling, and take in ideas and perspectives on Indigenous relationships, cultures, and lifeways.



- **Feb 17th, An Evening of Northwest Indian Storytelling**

Join Wisdom of the Elders and the Northwest Indian Storytellers Association for an evening of Indigenous stories with the theme of "Traditional First Foods that are Threatened or Endangered."

Tickets and more information will be available on Wisdom's website soon. <http://www.wisdomoftheelders.org/>

- **Confluence Story Gatherings**

The Confluence Project is hosting a series of story gatherings through the winter and spring to elevate the voices of Native elders and explore the interconnection of people and places in the Columbia River system. Listen to the first installment of the series on their website, and explore the wealth of stories they host on their site.

### Story Gathering Dates:

Feb. 18 | 2-4 pm: Liberty Theater, Astoria  
 April 15 | 1-3 pm: Alberta Rose Theatre, Portland  
 May 6 | 2-4 pm: Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles

- **Earthfix Story Highlights Yakima Traditional Fisherman**

Ever wonder what its like dipnetting salmon? This quick story profiles a few Yakima fisherman as they catch salmon on the Lyle River.

<http://www.opb.org/news/article/at-lyle-falls-tribal-fishermen-carry-on-a-longstanding-tradition/>

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

They're usually more submissive to California Quails, Northern Flickers, Western Scrub-Jays, and American Robins. The only time Varied Thrushes flock with other species is when they occasionally forage for berries or earthworms on lawns with American Robins.

Photograph: Sherry Hagen

## 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.



## Birding Enthusiasts



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



## Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

December brought to the Refuge alternating days of snow, ice, rain, fog, and sunshine. It also brought out many new and returning volunteers to help with planting maintenance duties. I would like to thank the group of Seniors from Ridgefield High School who chose the Refuge as the place to complete their community service volunteer hours. I would also like to thank the folks from UNFI for coming out every Wednesday in December and helping to free the trees. Without the planting maintenance work by volunteers many of the 4-5 year old tree plantings would never reach maturity. Thanks also go out to the Cub Scouts who spent their Saturday planting trees to improve habitat and generally just being a fun group to work with.

In January we will finish up with our first round of tree maintenance before transitioning into preparation for a large restoration effort on the Carty Unit. Don't let the weather hold you back. Wednesday volunteer events will continue, and now that we have a new Habitat person on board we will be adding some weekend events as well. So bundle up and come join us!

There will be a volunteer event on President's Day, Monday February 20th from 9am - 12:30 pm, email: [SeanforRidgefield@gmail.com](mailto:SeanforRidgefield@gmail.com) to sign up!

(click this poster to view larger and download)



### Get Outdoors and Give Back



**RESTORATION**  
Help us restore important habitat on the Refuge in these hands-on projects. Individuals and groups are needed all seasons to help plant trees and shrubs, monitor health, install protective fencing and remove invasive plants.



**MAPPING**  
A large part of restoration is keeping out plants that threaten to take over native habitat. A limited number of dedicated volunteers help to survey refuge lands, locating and marking invasive plants for later treatment.



**PROPAGATION**  
Do you have your own nursery or greenhouse or know someone who does? Volunteers are needed to help collect and propagate native plants for future projects. All materials are provided.



**HERBICIDE**  
Limited herbicide is used to help suppress and eradicate invasive plants species so that healthy native plant communities can thrive on the Refuge. Individual volunteers are needed to carefully apply herbicide in areas too sensitive or remote for equipment. Required training and state certification is provided.

To learn more visit: [www.fws.gov/refuges/Ridgefield](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/Ridgefield) or <http://ridgefieldfriends.org>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this event for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodations needs to Keith Rutz, 360-887-4106, Keith\_Rutz@fws.gov. TTY: 360-877-3020 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

The Habitat Restoration Program is a collaborative effort between USFWS and the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge



**WHEN:**  
Most Wednesdays & Saturdays  
9:00 am - 12:30 pm

**WHERE:**  
Various sites at  
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge  
in Ridgefield, WA

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN-UP CONTACT**  
Sean Davis, Staff for Friends of Ridgefield NWR

Email: [seanforridgefield@gmail.com](mailto:seanforridgefield@gmail.com)  
Phone: 360-877-3883

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

Questions? Contact [Keith\\_Rutz@fws.gov](mailto: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!



## Our Sponsors

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!

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