



March 2017

## Community & Nature Center Update

For some time now, the Friends of RNWR, the Refuge Staff, and Region 1 of US Fish and Wildlife have been working toward designing and building a office and Community Nature Center. The process has been slow but recently has picked up speed as an architect and engineering company was hired by Region 1 in 2016. Region 1 staff have been gathering information from many community members and organizations, the Friends of RNWR formed a committee called ERIC to start and keep the process going. The City of Ridgefield, Port of Ridgefield, and the Ridgefield School District have joined the effort, seeing the benefit to the community including the County and State. Local and national elected officials are actively in favor of this building project.

Drawings have been produced and are continuing to be modified. No definite building plans yet, but there will be.

Donations for construction have been made and are being held by the Friends of RNWR. During the last Friends membership meeting in January those present added more to the building fund during a spirited spontaneous activity. There is currently over \$7,000 in the Community Nature Center Account.

Thank you for the donations, the FRNWR is a 501-C3 so all donations are tax deductible.

It has taken 50 years to get to this point, with many false steps and promises along the way. Plans now look like they will be completed and the buildings built. No date yet but there is no turning back now.

Russ Roseberry- Community & Nature Center Committee Chair

Thank you to our wonderful Members and Volunteers who donated towards this project during our Annual Volunteer and Member Appreciation Dinner:

Elizabeth Adcock  
Gail Alexander  
Eugene Carroll  
Carol Cleveland  
Sandra Day  
Jan Haig  
Lorre Jaffe  
Jim Maul  
Sydney Reisbick  
Mel Sanchez  
Trink and Ernie Schurian  
Donna Schuurman  
Virginia Scott  
Pete and Janis VanWyhe  
Allene Wodaege

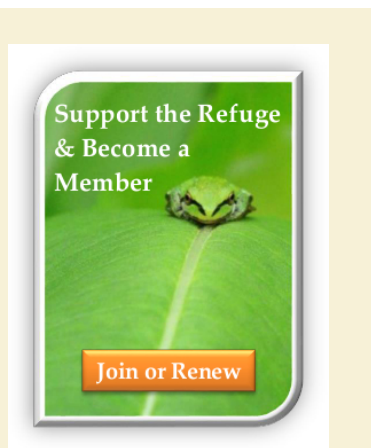
A variety of people responded to a call to donate \$20 on the spot during our dinner in January as well, thank you!

## Photo Contest Calendars, Half Off!

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Check out the Benefits of Membership below to find out more.

## Events

### Volunteers Wanted!

#### March Volunteer Orientation Webinar Series

To register or for more info, contact Josie Finley at [RidgefieldVolunteer@FWS.gov](mailto:RidgefieldVolunteer@FWS.gov) or call (360) 887-4106. Check out the flier in the body of this newsletter!



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

Originally \$15, now just **\$7.50!** These 16 month calendars run from January 2017 to April 2018, and feature all 16 of the 2016 Refuge

Photo Contest Winners.

To find out more, or 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!)

## Annual Volunteer Naturalist Training Series Starts in April!

Check out the flier in the body of this newsletter!

To become an education or naturalist volunteer, and help with school groups, hikes, walks and more, contact [RidgefieldVolunteer@FWS.gov](mailto:RidgefieldVolunteer@FWS.gov) or [Plankhouse@gmail.com](mailto:Plankhouse@gmail.com)

## Wildlife Refuge Open House March 4th, 10:30-3:00

Cascade Park Library  
600 NE 136th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98684  
Presentations at 12:00 and 2:00

Check out the flier located in "Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events" section to the left.

## March Volunteer Orientation Webinar Series

Thinking about volunteering at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge? Tune in to our volunteer orientation webinars and start your journey at the Refuge! These webinars will be recorded and posted on the Refuge website, so if you miss the live broadcast, you can catch up with them later.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### VOLUNTEER WEBINARS

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**  
Listen Live Online/ Or Watch Later

**Learn & Connect.**  
**People. Nature. Culture.**  
Discover the latest our volunteer program has to offer! Tune in live and interact with the presenters, or watch them on your own time. Open to anyone interested in learning more about local refuges and the many great things volunteers do to make these places great for people and wildlife.

- March 1**  
Getting to Know Your Local Refuges
- March 8**  
First Peoples of the Lower Columbia
- March 15**  
Benefits of Being a Volunteer
- March 22**  
Making Volunteering Safe & Fun

For more information and to sign up email: [RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov](mailto:RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov)

From sponsored by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners, the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Cascade Range Refuge System. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this event for all participants. Please email, if necessary, for any language assistance services, closed captioning, or other accommodations. Call to Jane Finley, 360-887-4106, for more information. TTY: 800-877-8339 and our website for those of business who wish to buy the event.

[www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield)

1pm - 2pm  
4 Wednesdays in  
March:

(click the poster to view larger or download)

To register or for more info, contact [Josie Finley](mailto:Josie.Finley@fws.gov) or call (360) 887-4106.

To make sure you keep up-to-date on all the Friends news, send us updated contact info when you change email and mailing addresses. Changes can be sent to: [Contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:Contact@ridgefieldfriends.org), at any time, or you can always sign up for our E-newsletters at [www.ridgefieldfriends.org](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org) in our Newsletter sign-up boxes located in the sidebar of any page!

## Junior Duck Stamp Contest

Young artists! Get your paint, pencils and creativity together for another year of the Junior Duck Stamp Contest!

Submit your Junior Duck Stamp entry to your state contest by the state's deadline. All entries must be postmarked by March 15!

Rules, how to enter and more: [HERE](#)

## Annual Volunteer Naturalist Training Series

## Board Seeking New Members!



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



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Ridgefield & Steigerwald Lake NWRs

Learn & Connect.  
People. Nature. Culture.

Join us for the most fun and interactive volunteer training of the season. People of all backgrounds, experience levels and interests come together to learn about wildlife, habitat, culture, and communication techniques. Whether you have experience or are looking to learn something new, this training is for you! Volunteers teach students, engage visitors, help with on and offsite events, and much much more.

April 1  
Connecting People to Nature

April 8  
Culture & Tech of the Lower Columbia

April 15  
Wetlands & Wildlife

April 22  
Wildlife of Oak Woodlands

For more information and to sign up  
email: [RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov](mailto:RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov)

Event sponsored by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners, the Friends of the Ridgefield Express Wildlife Refuge and the Columbia River Heritage Society. The fee for an individual to attend is minimal. High language proficiency is required. Please contact us at least 30 days before the event. For more information, contact: Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, 1111 1st St., Ridgefield, OR 97137. Phone: (503) 837-8333. Visit our website at [www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield).

[www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield)

Spring is almost here and that means that we are recruiting our next class of volunteer naturalists, interpreters, and educators! Join our team to connect people of all ages to their local public lands.

10am - 3pm  
4 Saturdays in April

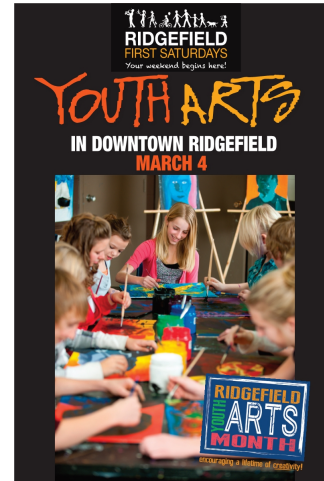
(click for larger and to download)

To register or for more info,

of the area's rich cultural heritage, maintenance and restoration of habitat, and environmental and cultural education. [Learn More...](#)

## Ridgefield First Saturday: Youth Arts

Saturday, March 4, 2017



Join in our local version of this national annual celebration of visual and performing arts. Get creative with us!

*Art Displays & festivities all around town!*

Visit the [City of Ridgefield Page](#) for more the schedule of events and more!

contact [Josie Finley](#) or call (360) 887-4106

## BirdFest & Bluegrass Planning Committee Seeks New Members and Ideas!

Do you love attending our annual BirdFest celebration? Do you want to see it be successful in 2017? If so, than we need YOU to get involved in planning this years event. Commitment is one two hour meeting a month, March - September, and volunteering BirdFest Weekend (October 7th & 8th).

Want to Make BirdFest a success? [Learn More...](#)



## From the River 'S' Contact Station

### Water, Water Everywhere



It is ironic that we were lamenting how dry everything was this last summer, and now water is higher than many visitors ever remember. It appears records will fall with this year's winter rains. Refuge staff have been working hard to keep the River 'S' entry road open while mother nature seems to want to

throw a few trees and boulders down on the road.

So how does that affect the wildlife? Visitors have noticed we seem to have had fewer ducks on River 'S' at times in Jan-Feb. On one of my tours of the River 'S' mid-February, I saw a lot of Pintails in the grasses south of the loop around Rest Lake. But why don't we see many ducks when there is so much water, you would think they would enjoy it? The answer, at least in part, has to do with how they feed. Our dabbling ducks—Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, the teals and Gadwall—feed by upturning, tail in the air. They go for shallow vegetation or aquatic invertebrates close to the surface. They prefer shallower areas and that is why it is more likely you will see these ducks in the newer large "puddle" areas in the grassy fields and moving away

## Species Spotlight

### Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*



The Great Horned Owl is a magnificent raptor, with a large, sturdy body and intimidating yellow eyes. They are common in the Refuge and also

from our larger lakes which have become too deep. High water is a good time to look for more diving ducks to come into the refuge. They will also be scattered in the now deeper, more prevalent ponds. Diving ducks like Canvasback have been seen on Rest Lake in the last few weeks. You can usually see Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck and Ring-necked Duck diving in these areas too. So, not to worry, they are probably somewhere else on the refuge feeding in the place that is "just right."

There is a lot of muddy, wet areas close to the road on the tour. Look for Wilson's Snipe foraging in these areas along with Killdeer. The snipe likes to probe in soft mud for worms. You have to watch the grassy areas intently for their movement to be able to find them as their mottled brown feathering is great for concealment. You can identify this medium sized shorebird by its very, very long bill and the dark brown stripes down its back. If you are lucky, you might catch one pulling a big worm out of the ground.

And, the otters seem to be having a great time in the full sloughs and canals. There have been numerous sightings of cavorting otters all over River 'S'. They are so much fun to watch. So enjoy your watery winter wonderland while you can. Spring is just around the corner.

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

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## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



### Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

#### Wildlife Refuge Open House

**March 4th, 10:30-3:00**

Cascade Park Library  
600 NE 136th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98684

*Presentations at 12:00 and 2:00*

Want to learn more about how you can get involved at one of our local National Wildlife Refuges? Want to hear about exciting new programs and projects? Come out to the Cascade Park Library to chat with Friends and Refuge staff about whats going on at YOUR local Refuge!

(click to view larger or download)

throughout North America, and can thrive in many different habitats - from woods, swamps, desert, and tropical rainforests to cities, suburbs and parks.

Their natural, earthy reddish-brown colors lend easily to camouflage, and they have a white patch in the throat area. The owl's "horns," are actually two feathered tufts on the head that resemble ears, called plumicorns. Their wings are broad and rounded and ideally suited for low speed and maneuverability.

The male owl's song is low-pitched but loud; the female's call is higher pitched. On occasion, their calls can be disconnected and rambling; this may indicate an owl being disturbed or angered, or could be vocal development of young owls, or even territorial disputes with other owls.

Great Horned Owls have a diverse diet. This powerful predator can take down birds and mammals larger than itself, but also dines on smaller prey, such as tiny scorpions, mice and frogs. They are primarily nocturnal hunters, mostly at sundown or before dawn, but may also hunt during daylight hours. Like most owls, the Great Horned Owl is a master of secrecy and stealth. Its natural-colored plumage is well camouflaged both while active at night and while roosting during the day.

Mated pairs are monogamous, and males vigorously defend their territories with dynamic hooting. They respond to threats, depending on severity, with bill-clapping, hisses, screams, and guttural sounds, eventually spreading their wings and striking with their feet. They are also known to kill other members of their own species. Crows, ravens and raptors often harass Great Horned Owls with loud, unrelenting calls and will also dive-bomb, chase, and even peck at them. Unattended eggs and young may fall prey to foxes, coyotes, raccoons, raptors and crows.

Owls hunt mainly by watching from a high perch. They fly from perch to perch, scanning for prey until locating a suitable target, then diving down to the ground to ambush their prey. Prey are usually killed by crushing, and swallowed whole whenever possible. If the prey is too large to swallow whole, owls will tear off pieces with their bill and even dismember their prey. Sometimes the owl will behead its victim, and may crush the bones of the prey for easier carrying. Many owls will accumulate prey while nesting. In one extraordinary case, 113 brown rat carcasses were found around a single owl roost; all were fairly intact except that their skull

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



MARCH 4 | 10:30 AM-3:00 PM

**WILD IN THE CITY**

**CASCADE PARK LIBRARY**  
600 NE 136th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98684

The community is invited to join us for this free event, as we bring the National Wildlife Refuge System to the City...

Come learn about recreational opportunities and how to get involved at your local Portland/Vancouver Metro Area Refuges. Staff and volunteers will engage people of all ages in learning about local wildlife, ongoing conservation projects, volunteering, and upcoming events at the Refuge. Hands-on activities, informational booths, brief presentations at 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM, and light refreshments provided.

Event sponsored by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners: the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Columbia River Estuary. 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: Vera Flores, 503.837.4146, vera\_flores@fws.gov. TTY: 800.477.6334 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

[www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield)

had been ripped open and their brains had been removed.

Great Horned Owls roost in trees, thick brush, ledges, cavities and also man-made structures. Like all owls, they usually adopt a nest originally built by another species, but also use cavities in live trees, dead snags, deserted buildings and cliff ledges.

Great Horned Owls are early breeders. During courtship, the male attracts a female by hooting, leaning over and puffing up his white throat. He then approaches the female and rubs his bill against hers while repeatedly bowing. The male may win her over by bringing freshly caught prey for them to share. Pairs typically breed together for years and may mate for life.

In the Northwest, egg laying is from early March to late April, usually with 2 eggs per clutch. The average egg is 2.2" long, weighing an average of 1.8 oz. The incubation period ranges from 28-37 days. The female usually does all the incubation and rarely leaves the nest, while the male owl will hunt for food and bring it to her.

When first hatched, the young are covered in whitish gray down, with brown-colored wings. The down gradually diminishes, developing mature plumage by late summer. By late autumn, first-year birds resemble adults but with a slightly reddish tinge, less well-developed ear tufts and a smaller white throat patch. The nestling owls develop their behavior between 2 weeks and 2 months old, learning how to defend themselves, grasp food and climb. The calls of the young increase rapidly in intensity, pitch and character. Young owls move onto nearby branches at 6 weeks and start to fly about a week later, and usually are competent fliers by 10 to 12 weeks of age.

**Did You Know:** When clenched, a great horned owl's strong talons require a force of 28 pounds to open. They use this deadly grip to sever the spine of large prey.

If you hear an agitated group of cawing American Crows, they may be mobbing a Great Horned Owl - they can gather from near and far and harass the owl for hours. The Great Horned Owl is the crow's most dangerous predator.

The oldest known Great Horned Owl was at least 28 years old when found in Ohio in 2005.

## Voices of the Urban Refuge Support Team

As the Urban Refuge Program continues to take shape, we want to support your understanding of this important, but sometimes unfamiliar, work. We've collected some highlights from the last month below and encourage you to contact us anytime to learn more and explore ways to get involved.



### Try Out "Daycation" Today

Ever heard of the "Ale Trail" in Washougal? Want to test your nature knowledge on Ridgefield NWR's GeoAdventure? Curious about how to experience heritage trees and chocolate in one activity? All of these adventures await you in the [Daycation Mobile App](#), now available in the [Apple App Store](#) as a "Beta Test" version. Through the Urban Refuge Program, the USFWS has been working with partners of The Intertwine Alliance for the past couple years to develop this fun, handy guide to nature in the Portland-Vancouver Metro Area. We are actively seeking "Beta Testers" — folks who are willing to download and give the app a try, then fill out a feedback form with their impressions. If you want to give this new, fangangled technology a try as a Beta Tester, check out the [Daycation Website](#) or directly contact Tara Wilkinson of The Intertwine Alliance at [tara@theintertwine.org](mailto:tara@theintertwine.org). To generally learn more, contact Pat at [patrick\\_stark@fws.gov](mailto:patrick_stark@fws.gov).

### Ridgefield NWR Community & Nature Center Focus Group

Progress continues in visioning a new public and staff facility at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge — a Center developed not just for the community, but by the community. Public and partner input has been a key part of the "Imagine" phase of the project, as the Refuge works with an architectural firm on a conceptual design. The Urban Refuge Program and Friends of Ridgefield NWR supported the latest perspective-gathering effort on January 19th, facilitating a focus group of youth-serving organizations in the Clark County area. Nine organizations participated, engaging in a discussion of how a new Center can best serve youth in the region. The conversation was lively and enlightening, including much discussion around addressing potential barriers for new, urban audiences that have varying experience and comfort levels with nature. Several attendees expressed interest in opportunities to further participate in the project. If you want to learn more, contact Pat at [patrick\\_stark@fws.gov](mailto:patrick_stark@fws.gov).

Engaging Our Community: From Professionals to Neighborhoods  
Our Urban Wildlife Refuges' own, Dr. Jenny de la Hoz, spoke at the 15th Annual Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium (UERC), a gathering of environmental professionals focused on urban nature. She presented her dissertation work on Latinos' environmental identity in the Pacific Northwest. Her work showed that Latinos living in the Pacific Northwest have a strong environmental identity and enjoy exploring nature with families and loved ones. She also concluded that environmental values are stronger in older Latinos and encouraged organizations to support opportunities, like multigenerational activities, for older generations to pass along these values to other generations. To learn more, contact Jenny at [jenny\\_delahoz@fws.gov](mailto:jenny_delahoz@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

### Upcoming Events:

**February Volunteer Enrichment- Save the Date for March!**



Our February Volunteer Enrichment outing to the Oregon Historical Society Museum was fun for all! We hope to see you at the next one!

### March Volunteer Enrichment Event

Herpetology Walk and Talk with Deputy Project Leader Eric Anderson  
March 25, 2017  
9:00-12:00

RNWR Complex Volunteers, please join us at the River S Unit for an interactive exploration of the amphibians and reptiles that live on the Refuge.

We will meet promptly at the Hunt Check Station and walk from there. Come prepared for the weather - think layers and waterproof shoes! We will meet afterwards at The Sportsman's Steakhouse and Saloon for lunch.

Please contact Juliet McGraw at [juliet\\_mcgraw@fws.gov](mailto:juliet_mcgraw@fws.gov) to RSVP or for questions.

The Oregon-California Trails Association and the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation present the 2017:  
**'Vancouver: Layers of History on the Columbia River**



(Baby Great-Horned Owl)  
Photos By: Angie Vogel

## 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. [Learn More...](#)



## 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](#)

## Symposium'

On Saturday, April 1st, at 9:40am- the Friends' own Sarah Hill, and Board



Member and Vice-Chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation, Sam Robinson, will be presenting: 'The Chinook and the Cathlapotle Plankhouse' at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge,' at this symposium, along with a variety of other great speakers and

presenters.

The symposium will focus on the Ice Age Floods and their influence on regional geography, local American Indian populations, early explorers, the fur trade, Lewis & Clark, the Oregon Trail, and Fort Vancouver.

On Sunday, April 2, 2017, from 8:00am-5:00pm there will be a bus tour: 'Ridgefield to Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuges and the Lewis & Clark and Oregon National Historic Trails in the Greater Vancouver Region' led by Bradley Richardson, Curator at the Clark County Historical Museum (this tour limited to the first 50 registrations)

### Date:

March 31st to April 2nd  
The Heathman Lodge  
7801 NE Greenwood Dr.  
Vancouver, WA 98662

### Register:

[Oregon-California Trails Association Event Registration](#)

## Indian Country Conversations with Elizabeth Woody, Oregon Poet Laureate



Elizabeth Woody (Navajo/Warm Springs/Wasco/Yakama) has published poetry, short fiction, essays, and is a visual artist. Her first poetry book, *Hand Into Stone* received a 1990 American Book Award. Her second and third collections published in 1994 are

*Luminaries of the Humble*, by the University of Arizona Press, and *Seven Hands, Seven Hearts*, Prose and Poetry by The Eighth Mountain Press. Elizabeth is an alumna of Kellogg Foundation's Fellowship through the AIO Ambassadors program. She is born for Tódi'í'inií (Bitter Water dan) and her birthplace is Ganado, Arizona.

Date: March 9, 2017, 7 pm  
Willamette University Campus - Rogers Music Center  
900 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97301

### ICC Contact Information:

Liz Bahe, Director  
Native American Programs  
Willamette University  
503-370-6960  
[ebahe@willamette.edu](mailto:ebahe@willamette.edu)

ICC is hosted by Native American Programs.

Clark County Youth & Nature Symposium: Deepening  
Children's  
Connection with the Natural World

[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



The Clark County Nature Network of The Intertwine Alliance cordially invites you to The Clark County Youth & Nature Symposium: Deepening Children's Connection with the Natural World.

The symposium is perfect for: environmental/informal education professionals, nature play and recess advocates, child healthcare professionals, school administrators and facilities staff, teachers, PTA members, community-based school advocates, recreation professionals and the general public.

Continuing education units are available for teachers in attendance. Please RSVP by Monday, March 13.

**Date:**

Sat, March 18, 2017  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM PDT  
Clark College  
Gaiser Hall  
1933 Fort Vancouver Way  
Vancouver, WA

**Register:**

[Clark County Youth Nature Symposium Registration](#)

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

## Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

February brought continued rain, snow, and our intrepid volunteers to the Refuge. Wednesday work parties suited up and waded through the rising waters of Gee Creek to perform planting maintenance duties on a new generation of trees and shrubs. When waters ran too deep, volunteers headed upland to cut back blackberries along the Oaks to Wetland Trail. We send a special thanks to the students from the Portland Jewish Academy who spent a rainy Friday morning hand pulling an old homestead invasive.

As the promise of spring approaches we prepare for the coming season with volunteer recruitment and training. On March 4<sup>th</sup> we will participate in the Refuge's Open House Event in Vancouver to talk about upcoming events and projects. Current and new habitat volunteers will need to watch the series of USFWS Wednesday afternoon volunteer training webinars during the month of March. On Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have a volunteer event finishing up this year's planting maintenance schedule.

For questions or to sign up for a volunteer event give us a call at [360-877-3883](tel:360-877-3883) or email [keith.rutz@fws.gov](mailto:keith.rutz@fws.gov)

(click this poster to view larger and download)



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





## Volunteer

Support Habitat Restoration Efforts at the Refuge

### 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.

#### 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: [seanforidgefield@gmail.com](mailto:seanforidgefield@gmail.com)  
Phone: 360-877-3883

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](mailto:Keith_Rutz@fws.gov), TTY 800-377-3529 with your request by close of business one week before the event.



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, 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](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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*Header Photo Credit: William Lee, 2010 Photo Contest Honorable Mention*

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