



April 2017

## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Spring Opening and Celebration!



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE

Spring Celebration - Opening & Guided Walks

**APRIL 16 | 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**  
on the Carty Unit at Ridgefield NWR, Refuge entrance fee applies

Spring has arrived at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Join us for our annual opening of the Plankhouse. Learn more about spring time foods of the Chinookan Peoples and the seasonal round of Cathlapotle village life.

Two guided hikes will be led by refuge naturalists. The first hike will be a family friendly hike about oak trees and wildlife (1:00 - 2:00 PM). The second is open to anyone interested in birding and will focus on bird language and identification by sound (3:00 - 5:00 PM).

The Plankhouse will be open from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Explore hands-on displays inside the Plankhouse, sample stinging nettle tea, and enjoy children's activities throughout the day.

Event sponsored by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners, the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. 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 Sarah Hill, Sarah\_Hill@fws.gov, 360.887.4100, TTY 800-877-8329 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

[www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visits/Cathlapotle-Plankhouse](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visits/Cathlapotle-Plankhouse)



(click poster to learn more, view larger, or to download)

## Annual Volunteer Naturalist Training Series

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

## Events

[\*\*Cathlapotle Plankhouse Spring Celebration and Opening April 16th!\*\*](#)

**Volunteers Wanted!**



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 National Wildlife Refuge and the Columbia River Gorge Forestry. The sale of this product does not constitute an endorsement of any product or service. Proceeds from the sale of this product will be used to support the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. For more information, contact the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge at (360) 887-4106. www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

(click poster for larger and to download)

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

## Volunteers Wanted!

The Ridgefield Lions club has been a tremendous supporter of the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, offering sponsorship as well as volunteer hours and providing vendor services at BirdFest. As a thank you to them, the Friends like to offer some volunteer time to help them during their big events. Volunteer shifts run just a couple of hours, [learn more about upcoming event dates where you can help out, and sign up today!](#)



## Community Nature Center Update

Great plans are continuing toward completion for the Office and Community Environmental Center for the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.



The architectural and engineering firm, CTA, out of Boise is working with all of the information provided by the community, the FWS and Refuge staff to produce drawings that will reach the 35% complete goal. These plans include an office for the Refuge Staff and the Friends Staff. Current designs include two classrooms, a bookstore, an exhibit area, environmental education room and restrooms with outside access. On the west side of the Community Nature Center, facing the Refuge, there is a planned observation deck to view the Refuge.

Fitting in to the improvements on the Refuge the City of Ridgefield received a grant to replace the Main Street bridge over Gee Creek that will allow for safer auto traffic and walking access to the Refuge from downtown Ridgefield. Work on that project will begin in 2018.

Watch for updates on the Friends website!  
(Image: Your future Community Nature Center location!)

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

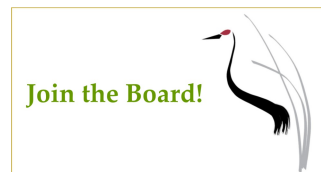
## Annual Volunteer Naturalist Training Series Starts in April!

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)

[Contact us](#) to update your contact info at any time, or you can always sign up for our E-newsletters in our [Newsletter sign-up boxes](#) located in the sidebar of any page on our website!

## 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 passion for fundraising, membership growth, and community connections who has a deep passion for the environment and wildlife, and an appreciation of the area's rich cultural heritage, maintenance and restoration of habitat, and environmental and cultural education. [Learn More...](#)

## Free Birding Program

**April 4, 2-17: Birding Without Boarders, an Epic Birding Big Year**

On January 1, 2015, Noah Stryker was on an adventure travel ship coming out of Antarctica starting a World Big Year of Birding. Not many people have tried such a feat. Noah was attempting to break the previous world record of over 4000 species of birds seen in one year and was targeting 5000 as his goal. Did he make it? What were the challenges of navigating through the world to find rare and exotic bird species? Come find out.

Vancouver Audubon is sponsoring *Birding Without Boarders; an Epic Birding Big Year* presented by Noah Stryker, 7:00 pm on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the Water Resources Center, 4600 Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA. Admission is free.

## Ridgefield First

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## Spring Cleaning on the Refuge

March was full of cleaning and preparing the Refuge for this year's events! Friends and Refuge staff worked with volunteers to clean up the Cathlapotle Plankhouse and some of our storage space, gearing up for future events and more! [Check out some before and after shots here...](#)



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## From the River 'S' Contact Station

Meet your Sunday volunteer, John Krause



John Krause started volunteering at the Contact Station on the River 'S' unit about six years ago. Having retired from an administrative education profession, he was looking for a volunteer opportunity at a place that would allow him to be close to nature, enjoy the company of people and provide flexibility so he wouldn't miss out on the hobbies he planned to enjoy in retirement. For the last year, he has shared the Sunday duties with another volunteer and

enjoys that very much. "It gives us an opportunity to engage more people during the busiest hours of the day." [Keep Reading...](#)

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## Wild in the City Open House Recap

Success!

As an experiment to educate folks about local Refuges and drum up new volunteers for the upcoming season, we took our show on the road as a Refuge Complex/Family to the Cascade Park Community Library in Vancouver. Stewards, Friends, volunteers and Service Staff filled the community room and chatted with library visitors about restoration projects, archaeology, culture, recreational opportunities, native wildlife, volunteering, and our great support groups. [Keep Reading...](#)



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## Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards Photo Contest and Photo Walk

## Saturday: Murder Mystery

Saturday, April 1, 2017



Test your detective skills at this Whodunnit and Murder Mystery event in downtown Ridgefield! Murder Mystery Game, Farmers Market, Live Performance and more!

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

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## Species Spotlight

Steller's Jay  
*Cyanocitta stelleri*



The Steller's Jay is a bird meant to be noticed, with its deep blue and black plumage and long, shaggy crest. It is native to the mountainous western U.S. and northwest coast, where its dark colors blend in well in the shadows. They are common in forest wilderness areas but are also known to frequent campgrounds, parks and back yards, where they beg brazenly for handouts with loud, raspy calls. When patrolling the woods, Steller's jays stick to the high canopy, but you're sure to hear their harsh, scolding calls if they're nearby. Graceful and almost lazy in flight, they fly with long swoops on their broad, rounded wings. [Keep Reading...](#)

Photo By: Angie Vogel

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## Photo Contest Calendars, Half Off!



As the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards 2017 Youth Photo Contest deadline nears May 1st, they have scheduled one more Guided Photography Walk for youth to get a leg up on the competition!

**Who:** Youth ages 12-18  
**When:** April 14th 5pm-7pm

**Where:** Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
**RSVP:** [jared\\_stawderman@fws.gov](mailto:jared_stawderman@fws.gov)

Link to contest page and where to submit photos: <http://prophotosupply.com/newsdesk/2016/07/2017-columbia-gorge-refuge-stewards-photo-contest/>

Photo Walk Leader's Photos: <https://www.instagram.com/pdx.wild/>

[\(View posters larger here\)](#)



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!)

## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



### Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

#### River 'S' Entrance Road Updates

This winter has been a challenge with weather related Refuge closures and landslides along the entrance road. The last landslide on March 3rd creates a bit of a challenge for the Refuge. Most landslides fall from the uphill side of the entrance road onto the roadway.



These are removed by Refuge maintenance staff as they occur. The recent slide was from the shoulder of the road into the creek bottom. The repair of this slide will require reconstructing the slope from the bottom up. This will be a costly engineered repair. As a precaution, barriers have been placed along a portion of the road to keep cars away from the new slide. We ask for extra driving caution along this narrow segment of road. Please drive slowly and use pullouts to yield to oncoming traffic.



### 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...](#)

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

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge present  
**BirdFest & Bluegrass**  
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...](#)



## Summer Youth Employment Opportunity

The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is recruiting for summer Youth Conservation Corp. members. This opportunity is open for youth 15-18 interested in working on the Refuges to assist with a variety of natural resource, maintenance, and recreation projects. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Refuges and learn how the Refuge operates. Applications and eligibility requirement are available on the Refuge website. Applications are due May 15. If you have any questions about the YCC summer program, please call the Refuge office at (360) 887-4106.

[Application Here](#)

## New Port Kiosk and Access Trail



Some of you may have noticed a new kiosk for the Refuge near the Port of Ridgefield. This seasonal trail and it's connection to the Carty Unit is in progress, as of right now the loop does not connect. We will keep you updated!

*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:

Celebrate the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Critter Count on Saturday,  
April 8th!



## Birding Enthusiasts



See what is being seen at the refuge this week at our [Weekly Sightings](#) page, or get a summary of the year's sightings so far on the [2016 Sightings](#) page.

## The Benefits of Membership

In addition to receiving the monthly E-News with Refuge updates, upcoming events and wildlife news, members enjoy member- and volunteer-only events. Also, with any \$50 membership, you will receive an annual Refuge Pass, which covers entrance fees.

Don't forget to glance at the [Refuge calendar](#), your one-stop shop for fun activities and volunteer opportunities!

Discounts at Local Businesses for New and Renewing Members:



Would you like to enjoy a cup of coffee from Ridgefield's Seasons after a morning hike on the Refuge? Or perhaps breakfast before you head out on the auto tour route at Pioneer Street Cafe? Lunch at Vinnie's Pizza in-between the River 'S' and Carty Units? Dinner and drinks at the Historic Sportsman's Restaurant and Lounge after a busy day of wildlife viewing? Or maybe you would like to get a discount on some supplies at Shorty's or Backyard Bird Shop?

[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.



### Critter Count

9 a.m. to noon | Begin at the Water Resources Education Center

- Celebrate Earth Day at the 17th Annual Critter Count by counting frogs, snakes and other herps around Clark County
- Train with a wildlife biologist at 9 a.m.; then go with experts to local sites to find and record critters
- Please dress for the weather; all children must be accompanied by an adult



### Live Critter Shows

1 & 2 p.m. | Second Saturday at the Water Center

- Creature Feature presents two live critter shows at 1 p.m., and then again at 2 p.m.
- See snakes, lizards and other reptiles up close
- Discover more about amphibians and reptiles
- Learn how to be a "Herp Hero"

Water Resources Education Center  
4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA  
360-487-7111 | www.cityofvancouver.us/watercenter



Click poster to view larger or for more info!

### Confluence Story Gathering - Portland

Confluence Story Gatherings are story-driven discussions that elevate indigenous voices in our understanding of the Columbia River system. The discussions are framed by video excerpts from interviews with native elders and leaders along the Columbia River system. Thanks to the Oregon Community Foundation!

**Date:**  
April 15, 2017  
1-3 pm

**Location:**  
Alberta Rose Theatre, Portland, OR

[More Information](#)

### Wisdom of the Elders: The Native Wisdom Film Festival



Wisdom of the Elders, a Portland cultural organization, records and preserves the history and arts — music, dance, storytelling and traditional arts — of exemplary Native Americans and shares them through a variety of

multimedia productions and public events throughout the region. [Continue Reading...](#)

**Date:**  
Saturday, April 15th, 2017  
12-6pm

**Location:**  
**Whitsell Auditorium**  
1219 SW Park Ave, Portland, Oregon 97205

### Volunteer Enrichment

Donate



### Our Sponsors



Lucy's Garden  
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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

Our March Volunteer Enrichment outing included a herpetology walk and talk on the Refuge! We hope to see you at the next one- **Become a Volunteer Today!**



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

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## Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

The rising Columbia had us scrambling for higher ground on the Refuge in March. Watching creeks and lakes fill to overflowing we are reminded of the influence the river has on our community. The cherry and Indian plum blossoms also remind us that we are moving into a new season here in the Northwest. With the arrival of spring, the Habitat Program activities turn to detection and treatment of invasive species. There will be invasive species id workshops in April at the Ridgefield and Steigerwald Refuges. Anyone interested in helping out with invasive species detection and mapping should attend one of the workshops. For folks working in the Gorge the workshop is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 9 AM-11 AM. The Ridgefield workshop will be on April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9 AM-11 AM. Please email Jared if interested in attending the Gorge workshop at: [Strawderman.jared@gmail.com](mailto:Strawderman.jared@gmail.com) or [keith\\_rutz@fws.gov](mailto:keith_rutz@fws.gov) if interested in attending the Ridgefield workshop.

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)



## Volunteer

Support Habitat Restoration Efforts at the Refuge

### Get Outdoors and Give Back



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.



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.



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.



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  
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, TTY 800-877-3829 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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