



June 2017

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday Event

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE
Native History, Tours, & Naturalist Guided Walks

JUNE 11 | 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
on the Carty Unit at Ridgefield NWR, Refuge entrance fee applies

Wyest Photo, Loowit. These are well known legends about the formation of our local giants, Mt Hood, Mt Adams and Mt St Helens. Where did these stories come from and do they have origins in local indigenous culture?

"Colonizing Native History" - 1:00 PM
Our keynote speaker, Dr. David Lewis, will take a look at these and other stories that are often accepted as coming from indigenous cultures, and examine the effects of colonizing Native History.

Plankhouse Tours from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Explore hands on displays inside the Plankhouse and family-friendly activities throughout the day.

Guided walk at 2:00 PM
Join a Refuge Naturalist to explore relationships between the Chinookan People & the landscape of the Refuge.

Event hosted 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, 503-867-4100, TTY 800-877-8239 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/Cathlapotle_Plankhouse

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

Big Paddle 2017, Totally Awesome Scavenger Hunt and National Trails Day!

June 3rd, 2017

There's something for absolutely everyone on this fun-filled day downtown and on Lake River. Breakfast, paddling, obstacle course, live music, beer & wine garden, BIG games and a Totally Awesome Scavenger Challenge!



A flotilla of canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards travel a 2.5-mile portion of Lake River between Ridgefield and the confluence with the Columbia River to celebrate National Trails Day. The flotilla paddles for close to two hours, visiting historic, cultural and environmental sites along the waterway before returning to the Port launch site for lunch, live music,

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Support the Refuge & Become a Member

[Join or Renew](#)

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

Events

[Cathlapotle Plankhouse June Second Sunday](#)

Volunteers Wanted!

Paddler's Village market and a beer garden.

We are looking for volunteers to help with an archery booth at this event! Contact Jane Chorazy: jane_chorazy@fws.gov to sign up and help out!

[For a schedule of events and more click here!](#)

Summer Teacher Camp

Science & Culture: Our place through different lenses



SUMMER TEACHER CAMP
Science & Culture: Our place through different lenses

July 24, 25, 26
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

At Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge & Water Resources Education Center

- Find out ways to bring indigenous cultures and western science into your classroom
- Participate in activities connected to NGSS and Washington State's "Since Time Imemorial" curriculum
- Examine best practices for culturally informed environmental education
- Explore field trip options supporting workshop themes

\$25.00
18 Clock Hours Available

For more information & to sign up: Suzanne.Hebert@cityofvancouver.us

Training sponsored by: 
www.ridgefieldfriends.org

July 24, 25, 26
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
At Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge & Water Resources Education Center

(click to view larger or download)

Habitat restoration is in full swing with tree watering, bulrush pulling and more! Check out the Habitat section below for more details, or email Keith_Rutz@fws.gov to sign up!

To become an education or naturalist volunteer, and help with school groups, hikes, walks and more, contact RidgefieldVolunteer@FWS.gov or 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!

2017 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest



Submit your favorite nature images taken within the boundaries of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge to the 11th Annual 2017 photography competition! [Find out more...](#)

For more information & to sign up: Suzanne.Hebert@cityofvancouver.us

From the River 'S' Contact Station

Great Horned Owls reappear on the River 'S'

Our Great Horned Owls seemed to disappear for a while this winter on the River 'S' Auto Tour Route. For the early winter, we pretty much knew how to find up to five owls on a good day drive around. Then around February they were scarce. Owls are early nesters compared to other birds like the songbirds we see now and the rails in our wetlands. Once the eggs are laid, the female stays on the nest while the male brings her food at night. [Keep Reading...](#)



Vancouver Audubon Society General Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 PM
Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

PROGRAM: American Kestrels:
Pondering the Population Declines

Speaker: Brad Tripp, PhD
Dr. Brad Tripp is a Professor of Biology at Warner Pacific College in Portland Oregon. He has worked with raptors for over 30 years. [Find out more, click here.](#)

Naturalist Led Birding Hikes!



Whether you are new to birding or have been watching them your whole life, Ron Escano offers easy and interesting ways to learn about this amazing world of our feathered friends. A retired USFWS biologist and life long birder, Ron has been leading these walks for over a decade at the Refuge and for the

Volunteers

Audubon society. Join him on refuge trails at Ridgefield, Pierce and Steigerwald Lake this Spring to find out who might be flying in!

Hikes start at 8:00 and last between 2 and 3 hours. These hikes are free with refuge admission at Ridgefield NWR, and totally free at Steigerwald Lake NWR and Pierce NWR- **RSVP for more information and directions.**

For the dates and locations of each of the upcoming hikes, click here!

Steigerwald Eco-Blitz!

Get your hands dirty and join us at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge for our first Eco-Blitz... An Eco-Blitz is a one day event to document as many species as possible with the help of experts in different fields and YOU! [Find out more](#)



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

JUNE 17 | 7:30 AM-3:00 PM

ECO-BLITZ

**Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Washougal, Washington**

Get your hands dirty and join us at the Refuge at our first Eco-Blitz...

An Eco-Blitz is a one day event to document as many species as possible with the help of experts in different fields, and YOU! We hope the information collected from this event can be used as a baseline for what species are on the Refuge prior to our large restoration project being placed in 2018. Please do not document what species are at the Refuge with you in the open air or hidden from the untrained eye. This free family-friendly event is open to all ages. No experience necessary.

For more information contact Jared Strawderman, phone: 360-835-8767 email: jared_strawderman@fws.gov

Event hosted by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners, the Columbia River Refuge Stations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to the outdoors for all Americans. Please direct all requests for special language interpreting services, cultural resources, or other accommodations needs to Jose Felix, jose_felix@fws.gov. (714) 660-0720 and your request will be processed before the event.

www.fws.gov/refuge/steigerwald_lake

Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Front Desk Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking for a great organization to support, but maybe don't want to spend as much time outside? Looking to help in an administrative capacity? The Ridgefield NWR office is looking for you! The main office is looking for consistent help at the front desk, answering phones, issuing passes and helping support a great team! We are looking for someone who can come in regularly, ideally 1 or 2 half days a week for the next few months, and help out our staff. This can be a great training opportunity also for those who want to work in the Contact Station. Learn all the normal questions and get support while getting comfortable with the new information.

Contact us to learn more and volunteer! We appreciate it!
RidgefieldVolunteer@FWS.gov

High Water on the Refuge-But Not Everywhere?

People have been noticing that with our wet winter, the water levels are a lot higher than they were this time last year. Someone also mentioned that

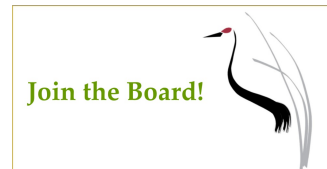
Wanted!

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!](#)

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...](#)

BirdFest & Bluegrass 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 -

the water levels on the River 'S' Unit, Auto Tour Route, and Kiwa Trail aren't as high as they are over on the Carty Unit (where some areas are still under water completely).



There is a simple explanation for that at least, the River 'S' unit is diked, and the water levels can be controlled by pumps, whereas the Carty Unit is part of the Columbia River floodplain, and the river is at an all-time high

for this time of year, flooding the lowland areas of that part of the refuge. Keep this in mind when you visit, it can get a little muddy in some areas, and this can mean you can easily damage the trails and rocky balds, so please be aware, some of the plants, mosses and lichens have taken hundreds of years to build a base and grow, but it only takes a second for a human to dislodge all that work.

¡Festival de aves!

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Bird Festival was a sunny success on May 20th, with over 1,200 visitors. While a warm, dry day certainly helps with turnout, we can also attribute a collaborative effort between the Urban Refuge Support Team, Friends of Tualatin River Refuge, and Refuge Staff to reach out to Spanish-speaking communities of the Portland Metro Area. The event drew more people and more cultures than ever before. [Keep Reading...](#)



A partnership to reach beyond the Blue Goose

When the Oregon Zoo opened its new Education Center this last March, it was just the beginning of a developing partnership between the USFWS and the Zoo. With the opportunity to reach thousands of visitors, the zoo affords the USFWS to go beyond the Blue Goose and connect with people who might not understand how our work benefits them daily. On April 29th, the USFWS and its partners, the Ridgefield NWR Friends and Tualatin River NWR Friends, brought our story to the Zoo to celebrate Arbor Day. [Keep Reading...](#)

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

September, and volunteering BirdFest Weekend (October 7th & 8th). Want to Make BirdFest a success?

[Learn More...](#)

Species Spotlight

Red-breasted Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus ruber



The red-breasted sapsucker is a medium-sized member of the woodpecker family. It has striking colors, known for its bright red head and breast, and a bright white stripe which runs down the side of their body. [Keep Reading...](#)

Photo 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



CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE

Celebrating Ten Years ▶ 2005 - 2015



The Plankhouse will now be open Saturdays and Sundays 12:00PM - 4:00PM, so stop by and say hello!

Second Sundays at the Plankhouse!

"Colonizing Native History" is the Second Sunday Event for June, with events every month until October! Every Second Sunday of the month! [Check out our website for more info!](#)

Help Support Senate Bill 13

Senate Bill 13, a bill that directs Department of Education to develop curriculum relating to Native American experience in Oregon and to provide professional development related to curriculum, still needs advocacy and support! One way that allies can do this is by sharing information about their local lawmakers with youth, families, and educators in their area. You can encourage people to look up their lawmaker and feel free to speak from your heart about what the passing of this bill might mean to you and your family. For those of you who have never called their representative, [click this link for more information on how to find and contact your rep.](#) [and a sample script to get you started.](#)

Jon Daehnke's book, *Chinook Resilience*, will be out soon! Pre-order your copy today!



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 [2017 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.

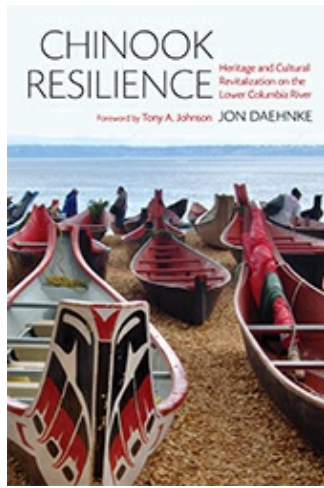
Don't forget to glance at the [Refuge calendar](#), your one-stop shop for fun activities and volunteer opportunities!

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.



(click for the pre-order form, release date set for November!)
 For the full UW Catalogue, [click here](#), flip to page 16 for this book!

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

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

Call for Citizen Scientists: Join a regional volunteer effort to
 detect and eradicate invasive plant species!



(click image for more information!)

Habitat Update

As the water slowly recedes, comes back up, then slowly recedes again, the refuge grows vertically by inches a day. Habitat volunteers have been busy clearing blackberries, mapping fences, spraying weeds, and digging thistles before the grasses conceal everything. *Keep Reading...*

For questions or to sign up for a volunteer event give us a call at 360-877-3883 or email keith_rutz@fws.gov or sean_davis@fws.gov

(click this poster to view larger and download)

Donate



Our Sponsors



Lucy's Garden
 Winery
 Ridgefield, Washington



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

HABITAT RESTORATION

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at River 'S' Unit of the Refuge
(1701 Hillhurst Rd, Ridgefield, WA)

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge invites you to join us in the field this summer, and help make a difference. We will be searching for and removing Ricefield Bulrush.

All work days are rain or shine. Wear waterproof boots and dress for the weather. Gloves, snacks, and drinks will be provided to keep you fueled.

Arrive early to sign volunteer paperwork. Parent/Guardian signature required for those under 18.

JULY
Wednesdays - 5,12,19, & 26
Saturdays - 1,8,15,22, & 29

AUGUST
Wednesdays - 2,9,16,23, & 30
Saturdays - 5,12,19, & 26

SEPTEMBER
Wednesday - 6 & Saturdays - 2 & 9

For more information and to sign up email: Sean_Davis@fws.gov

Event hosted by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners: the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards. 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 Jesse Finley, 303-887-4108, Jesse_Finley@fws.gov, TTY: 800-877-8329 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

Clark Public Utilities
The Columbian
Corwin Beverages
Environmental Paper & Print
Fred Meyer Community Rewards
National Environmental Education Foundation
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Parr Lumber
Pelican Brewing Co.
Portland Audubon

Questions? Contact 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. You can search for us by our name, **Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**, or by our non-profit number, **89824**. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Friends earn a donation to support the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

You Can Also Shop and Give Online at AmazonSmile.com

Log on to smile.amazon.com, shop as you usually would and .5% of your purchase will be donated directly to the Friends. Use the special link, smile.amazon.com, with your existing user name and password.

To set up your AmazonSmile account, click this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-2018749>. When prompted to select a charity, choose the **Friends of Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge**. Begin shopping as you normally would and the Friends will receive 0.5% of eligible purchases.

Thanks for being an EcoShopper and helping the Refuge!

Header Photo Credit: Javier Urquizu 2007 Photo Contest Honorable Mention

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