

August 2017

July 19th Fundraising Event

Thank you to everyone who helped and could attend!

Dear Friends,

Many hands went into the air to say "Yes!" And many folks came forward to ask, "what can we do?" Your tremendous efforts are behind the success of our summer fundraiser at Windy Hills Winery.

Without an executive director for five years we honestly have lacked the confidence and leadership to believe we could do what we just did. With increasing needs for our programs and unsure times we knew we had to do something. We learned so much together in these last four weeks.

Amazing thanks to each of you. With gratitude for all of us and a refuge we all stand up for. Cheers for the Friends of RNWR, staff, volunteers, docents and partners.

Gail Alexander
Friends President RNWR

Praise the Refuge

Kate Gray wrote an amazing poem to wrap up events on July 19th, and we wanted to include it here for your reading pleasure.

Kate Gray's passion is being a teacher, a writing coach, and a volunteer writing facilitator with women inmates, houseless, and Veterans. She is the author of three poetry collections and a novel, *Carry the Sky*. For more information, go to kategraywrites.com.

Praise the Refuge

Praise the morning sky rippling
over ripe blackberries, thimbleberries, Oregon grape,
over reedgrass, sloughgrass, and wildrye. Praise the treefrog
clinging
to a leaftip, the dragonfly's blue flight, the long-toed salamander,
the rough-skinned newt, the slug's slithering.

Hail the Great Blue Heron snatching
a garter snake, the Bittern hiding
in the Alder, the Cedar Waxwing bursting
a red currant, the swallow
feeding its brood in a White Oak hole. Praise the Flicker
picking the willow, cottonwood, choke cherry. Praise resident
Robins, Chickadees and Bushtits hopping
in kinnikinnick, the Kestrels, the Killdeer and their heartbreaking
cry,
the Coots, Gadwalls and Mallards, Bald Eagles snatching
Salmon. Praise the Cormorant, its aquatic acrobatics,
the Grebe and its elegant neck, the Nuthatch, its upside down
creeping, the Sparrow its chipping, the Redwing Blackbird
and the Kingfisher, their clamor.

Praise the visiting Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, the Trumpeters.
Praise the Cinnamon Teal cackling, the Lazuli Bunting, all flashy
and bright. Praise the Osprey, Gray Ghost, the Canada Geese, all
sizes
and sounds, the Vultures, Widgeons, Pintails and Scaups.

In This Issue...

Events

[2017 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge](#)

[Photo Contest](#)

[Ridgefield First Saturday: Picnic in the Park](#)

[Volunteers Wanted!](#)

[Board Seeking New Members!](#)

[BirdFest & Bluegrass Seeks New Members
and Ideas!](#)

[Species Spotlight](#)

[Represent the Friends](#)

[Birding Enthusiasts](#)

[The Benefits of Membership](#)

[Praise the Refuge](#)

[Plankhouse June Second Sunday](#)

[Calling all Vendors!](#)

[BirdFest & Bluegrass 2017 Commemorative
Buttons on Sale!](#)

[Help the Friends and the Refuge When You
Shop Online](#)

[From the River 'S' Contact Station](#)

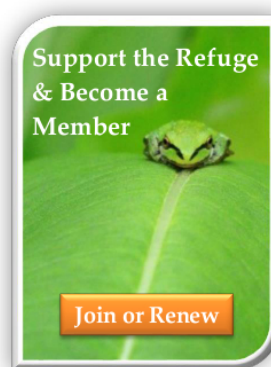
[Steigerwald Updates](#)

[Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge](#)

[Cathlapotle Plankhouse](#)

[Habitat Restoration](#)

[Tips for Summer Refuge Visits!](#)



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

Events

[Cathlapotle Plankhouse August
Second Sunday](#)

Volunteers Wanted!

Habitat restoration is in full swing with tree watering, bulrush pulling and more! Check

Bless the Bufflehead and Mergansers.

For Roosevelt elk and black-tailed deer, for skunk, weasel, raccoon,
red
fox, for river otter with their bellies set for breakfast, for beaver
dragging
the downed limbs across Lake River, for deer mouse and vole, the
orange
teeth of nutria, for ground and gray squirrel, for cottontail and
shrew,
for coyotes howling when Sandhill Cranes line the sky at sunset,
sing praise.

Praise the people who shelter the wild, plant grasses, weed
the invasives. Praise the First People, the Chinook, and all who live
like rivers, flowing and planting, hunting and harvesting, giving
and getting in balance. Praise all the people who preserve this
Earth.

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

Now you can sign up to volunteer easily on our website! [Check it out by clicking here!](#)

[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!

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday Event



Traditional Technologies Day
August 13 12:00-4:00

Come experience a day featuring ancestral skills and indigenous knowledge! Learn how to start a fire from scratch or make a survival bracelet to have on hand for emergencies as well as many other activities!

This year we have the very special opportunity to host a suite of native artists from the Chinook Indian Nation and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in the Plankhouse.

Please join Greg Robinson, Greg Archuleta, and Deven Robinson inside the Plankhouse for conversations and demonstrations on everything from carving and pigments to first foods.

We hope to see you there!

Calling all Vendors!

Want to be a vendor at BirdFest & Bluegrass 2017?



BirdFest is our local celebration of the return of the Sandhill Cranes to the Refuge and of the natural and cultural wealth

of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

There will be events going on in town all weekend: Sandhill Crane tours, guided nature and bird walks, children's activities, kayak tours, Chinookan Plankhouse tours, naturalist workshops, and the Birder's Marketplace, featuring artists who concentrate on wildlife and/or nature themes.

2017 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest



Submissions due by September 5th!

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...](#)

Ridgefield First Saturday: Picnic in the Park

August 5th, 2017 9am-2pm



The sultry days of summer are upon us. So saunter downtown for food, friendship and fun. Pack or purchase a picnic lunch and cool down with water games, frozen dairy treats, a scavenger hunt, a refreshing beer or glass of wine, and some live music!

Ridgefield Schools will also be hosting a Tour de Ridgefield bike ride fundraiser, that will begin and end at Overlook Park.

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

BirdFest attracts 3,000 - 5,000 people annually. We have a lot to celebrate, as this is our 18th annual festival. We expect this event to be extremely well-attended!

Deadline for space reservation is September 1, 2017

[Click Here for More Information](#)

BirdFest & Bluegrass 2017 Commemorative Buttons on Sale!

Find out where you can purchase these amazing buttons featuring our bird of the year, the Turkey Vulture! All proceeds help to support this event as well as the unique habitat and education programs on the refuge! Just \$5.00! [Click here for more details!](#)



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!

From the River 'S' Contact Station

[here!](#)

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!](#)



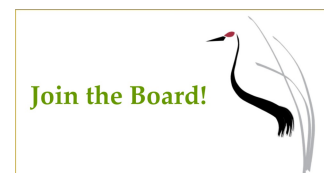
Friends of Ridgefield NWR Conservation Award



The Friends of Ridgefield NWR received a 2017 Habitat Conservation Award!

Donating to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is among the most cost-effective, direct, and successful investments in conservation that anyone can make. [Keep reading...](#)

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!

Morning on the Kiwa Trail by Susan Setterberg



One of our most popular attractions on the River S unit is the Kiwa Trail walk in late spring through summer. It is only open five months of the year, but it gets a lot of attention during that time. For me, the best time to walk the trail is very early in the morning. I try to do it on a week day when I can be the first one there. My chances of seeing the wildlife are better then. It is also usually less windy and temperatures are cooler. I must admit, I am not there for the exercise so much as the peaceful enjoyment of this lovely place; I stroll. [Keep Reading...](#)

Steigerwald Updates

The Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards have 3 bat walks scheduled:

Sunday 8/6 from 8-10pm

Wednesday 8/16 from 7:45-9:45pm

Sunday 9/3 from 7:15-9:15pm

Sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/steigerwald-lake-nwr-bat-walks-tickets-36530331204>

The Refuge Stewards next newsletter will be coming out shortly, check it out to see an update about the Pierce Pond Turtles and also a chance to get some free goodies from a local business. The email comes from volunteer@refugestewards.org so check your spam folder if you have signed up for this newsletter and haven't seen it. Or email Jared Strawderman at jared_strawderman@fws.gov if you'd like to sign up!

Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

USFWS Is Now Hiring!

Student Trainee for Office Support
Apply by August 9th!

You too can make a difference in our world. The work of the US Fish and Wildlife Service is meaningful and varied. Want to know more about what it is like to work for us? [Find Out More...](#)

Connecting with Communities

A week in the life of Steigerwald Lake NWR



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...](#)

Species Spotlight

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*



The Northern Flicker is a large woodpecker with characteristic bright and striking colors, ranging from bright white on the chest, to sharp red underneath its wings, to a triangular black patch on its upper chest. Its ringing calls and short bursts of "jack hammering" can be heard in spring just about anywhere in North America. [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...](#)



Steigerwald Lake NWR is making a name for itself these days. With the support of the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards (CGRS), the Refuge has been able to host new visitors and welcome new groups of people interested in volunteering. [Keep Reading...](#)



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 [2017 Sightings](#) page.

Celebrating Emerging Environmental Leaders



The Service is working with community partners to cultivate young leaders and to provide clear pathways for the next generation of diverse leaders in environmental education and conservation. [Keep Reading...](#)

"Keeping it Reel" and More Summer Fun

July 22nd offered multiple communities the opportunity to get outdoors and learn more about U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and our local National Wildlife Refuges. [Keep Reading...](#)



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.

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Update & Events



CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE

Celebrating Ten Years ▶ 2005 - 2015

[Donate](#)



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.



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

Second Sundays at the Plankhouse!

"Traditional Technologies Day" is the Second Sunday Event for August, with events every month until October! Every Second Sunday of the month! [Check out our website for more info!](#)

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

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

We Need You!

The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge currently has a Washington State Class A noxious invasive plant called ricefield bulrush that we endeavor, every summer, to eradicate. Last year, with the help of over 95 volunteers, we were able to pull nearly 24,000 plants! Well, the bulrush is back and we've pulled over 2,500 plants in just two volunteer work parties this past month.

If you are interested in a great opportunity to learn wetland plants, meet like-minded folks, experience ecological restoration first hand, and have fun outdoors this summer, we need you. For questions or to sign up for a volunteer event give us a call at [360-877-3883](tel:360-877-3883) or email sean_davis@fws.gov

Now you can sign up to volunteer easily on our website! [Check it out by clicking here!](#)

Camas Habitat Restoration Project

A 1200 square foot area was cleared and covered in preparation for a native plant habitat restoration project. A group of students from Clark College secured a donation of 100 camas bulbs from Scholls Valley Nursery and prepped the site in early June for a fall planting. We need help both purchasing more bulbs, and planting them! [Find out more here!](#)



(click this poster to view larger and download)

Our Sponsors



Clark Public Utilities
The Columbian
Corwin Beverages
Environmental Paper & Print
Fred Meyer Community Rewards
National Environmental Education Foundation



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 Josie Finley, 360-987-4106, Josie_Finley@fws.gov. TTY: 800-671-8238 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

Questions? Contact Keith_Rutz@fws.gov for more information

Tips for Summer Refuge Visits!

1. **Water:** Make sure to bring water with you whether you are planning a long or a short visit, it is going to be a hot summer and there is no access to drinking water on the refuge.

2. **Restroom facilities:** There are restrooms at the trailheads of both the Carty and River 'S' Units, and one stop right before the Kiwa Trail on the River 'S' Auto Tour Route, but there are no other facilities available to the public.

3. **Bring a Snack:** Just like with water, we want you to stay healthy and happy, plan to bring a snack on longer walks, but keep in mind there are no picnic areas on the refuge.

4. **Trash Receptacles:** There are no trash cans available so please pack out anything you bring in with you, we really appreciate it, and the wildlife does too!

5. **Appropriate Shoes:** If you plan to walk anywhere on the refuge, we recommend wearing shoes that protect your feet. While refuge staff strive to keep grasses, poison oak and stinging nettle back from the trails, they are always around, as well as fallen branches, rocks and more.

6. **Fire:** Fireworks and burning are strictly prohibited on the refuge, please protect our wildlife.

7. **Ticks:** Ticks are crafty, even on open trails they can find their way onto humans, so make sure to check yourself after a visit to the Refuge.

8. **Heat:** If the temperatures become too extreme, the Cathlapotle Plankhouse may be closed during it's regular open hours on the



National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Parr Lumber
Pelican Brewing Co.
Portland Audubon

weekend. Keep up to date on sudden closures by checking the [Friends Facebook page here](#). You do not need to have a Facebook account to check.

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.



Header Photo Credit: Javier Urquizu 2007 Photo Contest Honorable Mention

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