



October 2017

## BirdFest & Bluegrass 2017!

Click the flier below for the schedule on our website to plan your weekend, sign up for events, buy the button with benefits, and much more!

(There is lots to do and see, and some things require pre-registration and payment, please read descriptions carefully)

Click the poster to be taken to our website!

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge presents:

**BirdFest™ & Bluegrass**  
in Ridgefield, WA

October 6-8, 2017  
Bluegrass Picker's Festival

"Button with Benefits!"  
Wear your button and get free ice cream from Zebrun's, a raffle ticket at the festival, and automatic entry into bluegrass locations, the key-note presentation, and other events around town!

**Purchase the 2017 commemorative button for \$5**

All proceeds support Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge  
Buttons for sale at supporting Ridgefield businesses, listed at [www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org)  
For more information: [www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org)

Thank you to the businesses and organizations who help to make BirdFest & Bluegrass possible!



## BirdFest Updates:

Find out what is new this year!



- The new Port Trail gate will be open for BirdFest weekend! Enter the refuge from the Port, and walk to the Carty Unit, or walk from the Carty Unit out to the Port! (Don't forget, you can walk your dogs at the Port, but you cannot bring them on the new trail). The gate will be open from 10am to 4pm both Saturday and Sunday, October 7th & 8th only.

- Park at the Port of Ridgefield and hop on a free shuttle to and

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

Enjoy 5% off at the Sportsman's Steakhouse and Saloon in Historic Downtown Ridgefield with your member card!

## Events

### Volunteers Wanted!

Habitat restoration is an ongoing job, and someone's gotta do it! Restoration can be anything from tree watering, bulrush pulling, beaver cages, and more! Check out the Habitat section below for more details, or email [Keith\\_Rutz@fws.gov](mailto:Keith_Rutz@fws.gov) to sign up!

from downtown Ridgefield. Thank you to the Port for providing the shuttle! Park here and walk to the Carty Unit, or get a ride to Overlook Park and the Community Center!



- Take a selfie leading up to or during BirdFest & Bluegrass - in town, on the refuge, or at our "Stop Over" Selfie station on the Carty Unit, and you are one step closer to completing the city-wide scavenger hunt! Finish the hunt and bring it back to Overlook Park for a prize! Post your selfie with the hashtag #BFBG17 and tag the @Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge for it to count! Pick up your scavenger hunts in Overlook Park Saturday, October 7th!

- Visit the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge tent at Overlook Park and show your BirdFest & Bluegrass button or purchase one for \$5. You'll receive a raffle ticket that will enter you in a drawing for prizes. Winners will be announced following BirdFest. The winner will receive a basket of fun gifts from businesses all over Ridgefield! Find out where you can buy the buttons now

here: <https://ridgefieldfriends.org/birdfest-bluegrass-2017-button/>



## 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!](#)



## BirdFest & Bluegrass Clothing!



Do you love vultures, bluegrass music, or supporting a good cause? Then come get the BirdFest & Bluegrass Button design on a t-shirt, sweatshirt, tank top, and more! Proceeds go to fund this wonderful family event, and the unique habitat and education programs on the refuge! Online only, get yours today!

[Check out our Zazzle Store here!](#)

## BirdFest & Bluegrass Seeks Volunteers!

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)

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!

## 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

Mindful Birding®  
[www.mindfulbirding.org](http://www.mindfulbirding.org)



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!

Join the Board!



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

A group of volunteers has been making a difference for the Community of Ridgefield and its National Wildlife Refuge during BirdFest. This festival is renowned region wide and welcomes Sandhill Cranes and other migratory birds back to Southwest Washington every year. Join the fun and help the community. Just 2-4 hours of volunteering at the event is an easy way to make a difference and still have time to enjoy all the activities of the weekend!  
[Learn More...](#)



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...](#)

## From the River 'S' Contact Station

*'New Digs and New Birds'*  
by Susan Setterberg



After spending several years in our second-hand, critter inhabited contact station, we will be getting a brand spanking new one. Frequent visitors to River 'S' may have noticed the old contact station was moved to the other side of the fee Kiosk mid-September and has a

slight forward list to it. We aren't just rearranging the buildings. [Keep Reading...](#)

## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



## Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

### River 'S' Closures in October



The Refuge has received Emergency Funding to repair the landslide along the River 'S' entrance road that occurred last winter. The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge River 'S' Unit (1071 S Hillhurst Rd.) will be closed:

Monday, October 2nd through Thursday October 5th, & Monday, October 9th through Wednesday, October 11th.

This will not impact BirdFest & Bluegrass events October 6th-8th.

The Carty Unit will remain open as always.

### Fall Reminders!

1. The Kiwa Trail closes after BirdFest Weekend! Get out to the River 'S' Auto Tour Route, and make a stop at the Kiwa Trail while you still can!
2. The River 'S' Auto Tour Route goes back to cars only starting

## Species Spotlight

Sandhill Crane  
*Antigone canadensis*



As we all know, the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is a spectacular venue for birdwatching. In the fall, sandhill cranes are a treasured sight and sound at the Refuge.

Our amazing Urban Refuge is located in the Pacific Flyway, one of four bird migration pathways in the U.S. In the fall months, huge flocks of sandhill cranes coming from the north migrate through the Pacific Northwest on their way to the Central Valley of California, where they spend the winter. [Keep Reading...](#)

Photo By: Gary Davenport 2014 Photo Contest Winner 1st Place

## 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



October 1st! Your car is your blind, keep that in mind!

3. When you do visit, remember to bring water!

4. There are no trash receptacles on the refuge! Please pack out what you bring in.

5. There are no picnic areas on the refuge, while we encourage you to stay hydrated and filled with protein while you walk, please do not leave the trails or leave trash behind.

6. While the berries look ripe and inviting, please do not pick, eat, or remove anything from the refuge! Wildlife depend on these food sources, many berries aren't meant for humans, and some plants are treated with



herbicides to keep them off trails.

6. As always, no dogs are allowed on the refuge, as well as bikes, fire, running or bird-song playback.

Have a fun and safe visit!

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

## Refuge Carty Unit & Cathlapotle Plankhouse BirdFest & Bluegrass Events

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Tours, Family Grove, Flintknapping, and Community Partner Booths:

Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Visit the Family Grove by the Plankhouse and enjoy activities designed to inspire stewardship and learn about Chinookan Culture.

Visit our Community Partner Booths for information about nature, culture, ecology, and the history of our region, including a USFWS Wildlife Trafficking booth!

### Beginning Bird Walk

Saturday 8:00 to 10:00 am.

Family Friendly. Join one of our Refuge Birders on a walk on the Oaks to Wetlands Trail. Gain some insights on how to 'bird' by

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. Enjoy 5% off at the Sportsman's Steakhouse and Saloon in Historic Downtown Ridgefield with your member card!

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 (5% off with member card!)? 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

sight and ear. Learn to identify some basic bird calls and other great wildlife observation tips. Great for fledgling birders and those newer to birding. Meet at the tent across the sidewalk from the Plankhouse.

### Hands-on Birding Photography

Saturday 8:30 to 10:00am.

Carty Lake, \$15 per person. Join staff from Pro Photo Supply and technical representative Steve Ball from Olympus on a walk around the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. This event is great for avid birders or anyone interested in learning more about bird photography and how to utilize everything Olympus has to offer. Olympus will provide a limited number of camera bodies and lenses for people to borrow during this exploration of the Refuge. Meet at the tent across the sidewalk from the Plankhouse. A limited number of spots are available, please register early. **Registration required at <http://bit.ly/2hoD13E>. (Sign up by Oct. 4th)**

### Geology Walk

Saturday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Join a Refuge Naturalist for a walk around the Carty Unit exploring fun and entertaining facts about how the Missoula Floods influenced the land that we now call the Ridgefield NWR. Meet at the foot of the pedestrian bridge.

### Beginner Watercolor Workshop

Saturday 11:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Carty Unit, Carty Milk House front porch. In this workshop, participants will be guided step-by-step through basic watercolor techniques: how to apply a wash, how to apply details with light and shadow, and the effect of distance on colors as they paint a landscape scene to take home. This workshop will be led by skilled artist and Refuge volunteer Ron Ward and is appropriate for upper elementary students to adults. **Registration required at <http://bit.ly/2hoD13E>. (Sign up by Oct. 4th)**

### Pacific Northwest Ethnobotany Hike

Saturday 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

Join one of our Refuge Naturalists for an in-depth exploration of the native flora of the Refuge. Since Time Immemorial the lives of local indigenous peoples, wildlife, and oaks have been deeply interconnected. This hike highlights several of the major points on the Oaks to Wetlands Trail, including a massive ancestral oak, a cedar grove, Boot Lake, and the oak balds. Hikers should come prepared for an extended hike on moderately uneven terrain. Meet at the tent across the sidewalk from the Plankhouse.

### Chinook Culture Talk

Saturday 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Plankhouse. Please join us for a special presentation by Dr. Jon Daehnke (University of California Santa Cruz) and Rachel Cushman (Chinook Indian Nation Tribal Council Member) for a talk exploring the politics of cultural heritage and public representations of the past, especially within the context of Native American identity and the legacies of colonialism. The discussion will focus on a collaborative book project between Daehnke and the Chinook Indian Nation that explores the challenges and successes of their efforts to reaffirm control of their own heritage.

### A Stroll Through the Oaks

Saturday 2:30 to 3:30 pm.

Family Friendly. Join one of our Refuge Naturalists for a leisurely stroll on the Oaks to Wetlands Trail. Learn how people, place, plants, and animals are interconnected at the Refuge. Families and little ones can enjoy a Nature Hunt along the way and will get to meet an enormous ancestral oak at the end of the walk. Meet at the tent across the sidewalk from the Plankhouse.

### Bird Language Hike for Adults

Sunday 8:00 to 10:30 am.

Join one of our Refuge Birders on an extended hike on the Oaks to Wetlands Trail. Learn techniques for reading the environment in



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order to open your ears to the multitude of ways that birds communicate through calls and movement. This hike goes beyond spotting a fantastic bird to learning how to understand these animals' relationship to each other and their environment. Great for experienced birders. Meet at the tent across the sidewalk from the Plankhouse. **Registration required at <http://bit.ly/2hoD13E>. (Sign up by Oct. 4th)**

#### Cathlapotle Village Hike

Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Join an archaeologist for an overview of the history of the Cathlapotle Village, and a walk out to the archaeological site. Cathlapotle is the Chinookan village that stood for hundreds of years on what is today Refuge property. Participants should come prepared for the weather and a three mile hike on uneven terrain. Meet at the tent across the sidewalk from the Plankhouse.

#### Traditional Salmon Bake

Sunday 3:30 pm.

At the Plankhouse. Join us for a blessing of the food, including drumming by members of the Chinook Indian Nation and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and taste the traditionally baked salmon and seafood stew. Sponsored by Columbia Credit Union.

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Questions? Contact Juliet at [Juliet\\_McGraw@fws.gov](mailto:Juliet_McGraw@fws.gov) or call (360) 887-4106

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## Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

### Falling into Fall

With the passing of the autumnal equinox, it is clear that change is afoot on the Refuge. To watch the geese fly in formations with cacophonous pronouncements of their return is as if the pages of A Sand County Almanac have come alive. And with that, our work in habitat restoration has changed. Gone are the hot summer days with hori hori in hand, side-stepping chorus frogs in a sea of dragonflies. That wonderful full view of Mt. Saint Helens will disappear behind a veil of persistent cloud for the next 9 months.

Each Wednesday for Fall, Winter, and Spring we'll be lopping blackberry, maintaining previous years' plantings, pulling barbed wire or fence posts, planting trees, or a mishmash of that and more, all while being chilly and rained upon. Sound like fun? You bet it is! What's more, we'll also be out among the geese and the swans on the last Saturdays of every month.



Join us from 9 am to 12:30 pm. We provide the snacks (including hot beverages) and tools, you bring your rain gear, work wear, and smile.

Contact [sean\\_davis@fws.gov](mailto:sean_davis@fws.gov) for more details.

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

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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!](#)



Questions? Contact [Keith\\_Rutz@fws.gov](mailto:Keith_Rutz@fws.gov) for more information

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## 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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## 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.



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Header Photo Credit: Gretchen Thompson 2010 Photo Contest  
Honorable  
Mention

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*Address postal inquiries to:*  
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