



December 2017

## Thank You Members & Donors!

Members and Donors from Nov. 2016-Nov. 2017:

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Pro Photo Supply  
Debbie Raffleson  
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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 [Sean\\_Davis@fws.gov](mailto:Sean_Davis@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](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

Sam Robinson  
 Judy Rose  
 Marjorie and Elden Rosenthal  
 Barbara Ross  
 Charlotte Rubin  
 Carol Sandor  
 Susan Setterberg  
 Shorty's Garden Center  
 Carol Silva and Mary Cox  
 Donald Slymen  
 Solstice Restaurant  
 Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon  
 Starfish Manor Hotel  
 Dave, Julie & Carrie Tanner  
 Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge & Friends  
 Umpqua Bank  
 Henry VanWyhe  
 William Williams  
 Jennifer Wolcott & Daniel Heinrichs  
 Tom & Lisa Zeiner

**And Thank YOU to everyone who attended our July Fundraiser and who made donations and purchased items! We hope to see you all again on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018!**

***In Memory of Sydney Reisbick:***

Mary Jane Butters  
 Harry Koch  
 Paul and Linda Lewis  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sansone, Jr.  
 Carolyn & Bob Sawyer

If you notice your name is not on this list, but you have donated and would like it to be, please email us at [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) to alter your privacy options. To ensure your name appears in future newsletters and publications, please indicate whether you would like to stay anonymous or not when you donate or renew!

**Time to Join or Renew!**

***Join Us!***



As the end of the year draws to a close, many of us gather with our families to enjoy time together, or head out into the wilderness for some alone time, or curl up in a cozy chair to just watch the

rain. No matter what you do this winter, choose to support your local wildlife refuge. Ridgefield National Wildlife refuge is more than just a home and refuge for wildlife, it protects disappearing habitats and provides a stage for cultural and environmental education that cannot be found anywhere else. The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge work hard to continue important and unique programs on our refuge, but we need your help to do it. Join Us today.

All contributions are tax deductible\* and becoming a member comes with perks, [find out more and become our Friend HERE.](#)

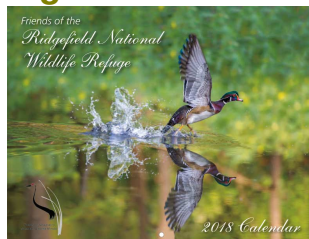
If you can't find an amount that works for you, or you just want to make a one time donation, we got you covered there too! [Check out how to donate without becoming a member HERE](#)

\*(donations over \$50 who receive an annual pass must subtract \$15 from their total donation amount before deducting)

**Holiday Shopping Done!**

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge's 2018 Calendar is here! This year's calendar features the 2017 winning photos of our annual photo contest!

Our calendars are much more than amazing, high resolution action shots from Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, they also help the Friends support its mission of providing habitat restoration, and cultural and environmental education on the Refuge and to its visitors. All the photo's subjects are identified, and there is also some info about each photo! Learn about the seasonal changes in habitat restoration, important dates to look forward to, read a



our [Newsletter sign-up boxes](#) located in the sidebar of any page on our website!

**Sportsman's Saturday**

**December 2, 2017 6-9pm**



Jason Joins Riverboat Danny for an Evening of Country Rock and tunes...[Find Out More HERE](#)

**Ridgefield First Saturday: Hometown Celebration**

**December 2, 2017 9am-5pm**



**Join your friends and neighbors at the Hometown Celebration! All day fun for the whole family and kids of all ages.**

The fun begins in historic downtown Ridgefield with an Ugly Sweater Run at 9:00 AM and the Community Center Art & Craft Bazaar.

*You can also purchase our 2018 Refuge Photo Contest Calendar for the first time in person at this event! Come by and pick one up, just \$18 featuring hi-resolution action shots of the refuge and so much more! Check out our ad to the left for more details.*

The fun continues with the Columbia Credit Union Food & Gift Festival at Overlook Park at 10:00 including the Farmer's Market vendors, roasting nuts, and 20+ additional vendors. The application for vendors is below. You will also enjoy live music performances on the stage. Don't worry about the cold — there will be heaters and canopies.

Other activities around town include cooking decorating and holiday crafts, meet SANTA, holiday trailer rides, a living nativity scene and a family games & activity center.

The tree lighting ceremony and caroling will begin at 4:30 PM at Overlook Park. Enjoy a holiday performance by DanceFusion, a cup of hot chocolate or hot cider, sweet treats and a community sing-along.

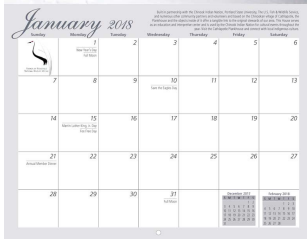
**For later evening fun, attend the acoustic guitar holiday concert, or head over to the Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon for Sportsman's Saturday live music and more!**

**[See the full schedule here!](#)**

**Board Seeking New Members!**



passionate poem about our refuge, and much more. Just \$18, these 12 month, 8.5x11 (opens to 11x16), saddle stitched wall calendars are the perfect gift!

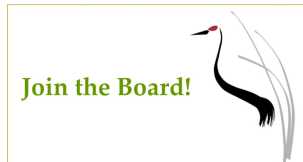


Whether as a holiday gift for loved ones, your friends or co-workers-or a functional keepsake for yourself- your purchase helps support our public lands, protecting wildlife and the history of our area, in perpetuity. With gorgeous photos of wildlife and a little learning, what more could you ask for?

Order yours [HERE](#) online today and guarantee you get

one!

Or you can purchase them in town at [City of Ridgefield's Hometown Celebration](#) on December 2nd, or at [Seasons Coffee Tea & Remedies](#) (inside the Old Liberty Theater) while supplies last!



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...](#)

## Species Spotlight

**Cinnamon Teal**  
*Anas cyanoptera*



The Cinnamon Teal is a small but very colorful duck, found in ponds throughout the Western U.S., and has been recently spotted in the Refuge. True to its name, the male has a notable cinnamon-colored head and body, iridescent green speculum, red eyes, yellow legs and feet, and hidden blue patches that are visible when in flight. The female's colors are more dull, overall rusty color with heavy streaking. [Keep Reading...](#)

Photo By: Angie Vogel

## Upcoming Events to Save the Date for:

Keep an eye out for more information on these events coming 2018!



**Friends Annual Member Dinner:**  
Sunday, January 21st, 2018-  
4-6pm, Location:  
Ridgefield Community

Center

Members please join us for an afternoon dinner provided by the Refuge Chef, good friends and good times! Note the later time this year! Keep an eye out for your official invites, and if you feel left out don't fret! You can become a member any time before the dinner (including at the dinner!) and join us!

[Start by clicking here!](#)

**Ridgefield NWR Complex Volunteer Training:** April 7, 4, 21 & 28, Locations Vary- check for updates [HERE](#)



**Cathlapotle Plankhouse Season Opening:** Saturday May 5th, 2018, 12-4pm  
28908 NW Main Ave  
Ridgefield, WA 98642



**Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Annual Fundraiser 2018:**  
Friday, July 20th, 2018 -  
Evening, Lucy's Garden  
- 3302 NW Carty Rd,  
Ridgefield, WA 98642

## From the Contact Station

## Your Refuge, Your Way

**Let Us Know What You Think!**

This area will feature questions regarding particular topics on the refuge, and what you think about it! First up, as winter closes in, the chances of inclement weather closures of the River 'S' rise substantially. Last year, we made an effort to email our members and mailing list every time the refuge closed, which ended up being quite a few times. Did you appreciate the emails or hate them? Would you like to see a few, but don't need one every time? Let us know! Follow this link here to leave your suggestions: [Closure Announcement Suggestions](#)

To suggest new questions to get your input on, click here: [Question Suggestions](#)

(For now, for closure updates, you can always check the main [Refuge website](#), or the [Friends website](#), [facebook page](#), or [twitter](#) to get the most recent announcements)

## 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...](#)



## My Favorite Season

You may have notice there is a new building on the River S. Refuge staff are working hard to finish off our new station with electricity, insulation, heat, finished walls, lighting, everything that will make in comfortable for us in the coming winter. Meanwhile, most volunteers... **Keep Reading...**



-Susan Setterberg, Volunteer & Board Member

## "Wings of the World" Art Dedication



On November 18, 2017 in Ridgefield's beautiful Overlook Park, the City of Ridgefield held a public dedication of a gorgeous art sculpture entitled "Wings of the World," created by Vancouver artist Sharon Agnor to commemorate the achievements and commitment to community of five Ridgefield residents – Allene Wodeage, Jim Maul, Sydney Reisbick, Amy Montoya and David Dines. Sydney Reisbick, beloved Ridgefield resident, passed away on October 17, 2017.

Wings of the World stands 15 feet tall and was constructed with stainless steel and colored glass. Glass panels, resembling the wings of a bird, depict various scenes of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Below the glass panels...**Keep Reading...**

## Friends Clothing!



Looking for the Stellar's Jay logo on black again? Do you miss the fun of BirdFest & Bluegrass already? Do you just love vultures, bluegrass music, Chinookan art or supporting a good cause? Then come get the BirdFest & Bluegrass Button design, or the Chinookan Stellar's Jay on a t-shirt, sweatshirt, tank top, and more!

Proceeds go to fund wonderful family events like BirdFest, and the unique habitat and education programs on the refuge! Online only, get yours today!

[Check out our Zazzle Store for the Stellar's Jay](#)  
[Click here for the BirdFest & Bluegrass logo](#)



## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



## 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.

## 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

## Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

### Winter Closures

As winter approaches, there is the potential of inclement weather that could create an emergency Refuge closure. Additionally, the Refuge could experience a temporary closure should the government experience a shutdown due to a lapse in appropriations. The Refuge website, the Friends website, the Friends Twitter and the Friends Facebook page (you do not need to be a facebook member to check here) will be updated with any information relating to unexpected closures.



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



### For Educators:

#### • Classroom Visits

As part of a pilot program to be more equitable to our surrounding communities we are offering in-classroom presentations to elementary grades every Thursday in February and March. We hope this will make our programming available for those schools that are not able to attend an on-site trip. In order to serve as many students as our resources allow, classrooms that participate in this program will not be eligible for an on-site field trip in the same school year. (Please stay tuned for the in-classroom program description)

\*Middle and high school teachers interested in classroom programs please contact the Refuge directly.

**Application Period: January 1st through January 31st**

Applications will only be accepted through our online form. A link to the form will be available here during this time period.

#### • Spring 2018 Field Trips

Field Trips during the spring of 2018 will be offered in the months of May and June. The month of April will be reserved for training volunteers so that your experience on-site is both accurate in its content as well as engaging to your students.

Up to three classes (max 90 students) can be accommodated each day, Tuesday through Friday. Programs are NOT offered on Mondays. Programs are free and reservations are taken on a first come first served basis.

**Application period: February 1st through March 15th**  
Applications will only be accepted through our online form. The link to the form will be available here during this time period only.

\*Ridgefield School District Teachers - Please contact the



refuge directly about current programming.

- **Teacher Orientation (REQUIRED)**

As part of our education program improvements we are requiring one representative from each field trip day to attend an Orientation on one of the following days. This is required for every school, no matter your involvement in field trips or training opportunities in the past.

Attendance to these events is good for three years. Orientation will include important logistics, expectations, potential activities and their content, and give educators a chance to give feedback and ask important questions.

Space is limited to please sign up at [Ridgefiededucation@fws.gov](mailto:Ridgefiededucation@fws.gov) for the first date you are available.

- January 27th
- February 25th
- March 24th
- March 31st

Check for updates on the official Refuge website [HERE](#).

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### Plankhouse Repairs



This week and next you may spot a work crew perched on the Plankhouse roof. David Rogers of Log & Timbers, LLC has worked with the Chinook Indian Nation, USFWS, and the Friends for over a decade incorporating culturally and environmentally appropriate

solutions to the maintenance of the Cathlapotle Plankhouse.

Currently Rodgers and crew are working on improvements to the roof vent system and other small repairs from November 29 - Dec 6, 2018. Our ongoing thanks to the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington for the generous support that allows us to provide ongoing care of the Plankhouse.



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### Water Resources Education Center Hiring

The Water Resources Education Center is looking for additional Watershed Monitoring Educators to contract with them. They pay anywhere from \$25/hr to over \$40/hr once you have experience with them. The number of hours is variable and this is a school year contract.

Link to the

application: [https://vancouver.procurement.com/Bids?Id=67ee27c4-fe24-4736-9a00-ece5a6c6dbd6&t=bid\\_description\\_tab](https://vancouver.procurement.com/Bids?Id=67ee27c4-fe24-4736-9a00-ece5a6c6dbd6&t=bid_description_tab)  
**Applications due by December 13th**

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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

### Winter is Here

Would it be too cliché to tell you all that winter is coming? Our volunteers have added an extra layer underneath their rain gear now. But we're still plodding through our inexhaustible supply of Himalayan blackberry and barbed wire fencing. Without giving away too much, our recent headway might mean more areas of the Refuge for you to enjoy in the coming months.

We've also made marked progress in maintaining plantings from previous years. If you have a moment, walk the Oaks to



Wetlands trail on the Cary Unit, just past the Plankhouse and look to your right. We've planted 300 camas bulbs! The egrets pretend not to notice so we used 300 pin flags just so they can knock off the shenanigans. It hasn't

worked. The tundra swans have assured us, however, that they love it.

With so much work on the Refuge getting done, and so much more to come, you are more than welcomed to step in now and claim some of the swan adulation! Get in touch for details and be a part of the progress; we would love to have you join us.

**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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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: Maguerite Hills

Would you like to forward this email to a friend? [Click here.](#)

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Address postal inquiries to:  
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