



January 2018

Happy New Year! Thank You Members & Donors!

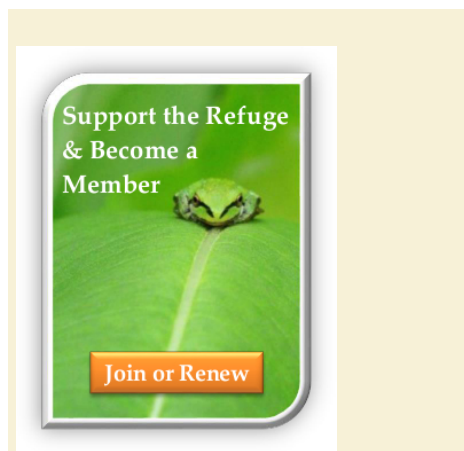
Members and Donors from Nov. 2016-Dec. 2017:

a Cena Ristorante
Elizabeth Adcock & Jack Bernhardsen
Gary Adkins
Gail Alexander
Jane and Ken Ames
Bebe Anderson
Jack Androvich
Robert & Katherine Ash
Backyard Bird Shop
Rollin Bannow
Trine Beach
Chris J., Bidleman
Barbara Bloomfield
Buckets Restaurant
Charisa Martin Caim
City of Ridgefield
Jane Chinn
Alex Chmielewski
Elizabeth Collins
Columbia Credit Union
Margee Cooper
Paul & Ivadell Crosby
Corwin
Hilarie Couture
Sarah Cowgill
Sandra Day
Lola Dennis
Eatery at Grant House
Elephant's Deli & Restaurant
Dick Garrison
Gratide Design- Shawn Hooghkirk
Peter Graves
Kate Gray
Jim Gola
Victoria & Jon Haugen
Kathleen Hensch-Fleming
Higgins Restaurant & Bar
Barbara Howard
Peggy J Hughson & Associates
Terry Hurd
Ilani
Jenny Kincaid
Beth Kinstelman
Lee Knottnerus
Nancy Knowles
Barbara Kubik
Patricia Larson
Ying-Kit Lau, J.D., Ph.D.
Lehman Court Reporting
Hugh & Mair Lewis
Joe & Donna MacKenzie
Peggy Macko
Lila Martin
Cheryl Mathieson
Jim & Kelly Maul



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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

Ursula McCabe
Twila and Mark McCombs
Cynthia McCormack
Juliet McGraw
Steve McLaughlin
McMenamins Restaurants
John and Kay Meyers
Eric & Linda Mihata
Vern & Marsha Miller
Mindful Birding
Debby & Curt Mohler
Kate & Christopher Mueller-Wille
Myrtle's Tea House & Herbery
Northwest Natural
Maureen O'Reilly
Dorothy O'Very
Pacific Northwest Best Fish Co.
Paragon Restaurant
Pamela Porter
Port of Ridgefield
Pro Photo Supply
Debbie Raffleson
Ridgefield Business Association
Ridgefield Kayak
Ridgefield Lions
Redfin
Sydney Reisbick
Sam Robinson
Judy Rose
Marjorie and Elden Rosenthal
Barbara Ross
Charlotte Rubin
Carol Sandor
Terri & Loren Schulte
Elizabeth Scovel
Susan Setterberg
Shorty's Garden Center
Carol Silva and Mary Cox
Donald Slymen
Solstice Restaurant
Sportsman's Steakhouse & Saloon
Starfish Manor Hotel
Patricia Stephens
Dave, Julie & Carrie Tanner
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge & Friends
Umpqua Bank
Henry VanWyhe
John Wiley
William Williams
Karen Wood
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 20th, 2018!

In Memory of Sydney Reisbick:
Mary Jane Butters
Wiley Hollingsworth
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 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!

email 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 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!

Attention!

New Board Meeting Time!



The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Board meeting time is changing in 2018!

Meetings will now be at 5:00pm, instead of 4:00, the second Monday of every month at the Port of Ridgefield. Contact us to let us know if you would like to attend!

Ridgefield First Saturday: New Year, New You: Health & Fitness Fair

January 6, 2018 9am-3pm



Fun runs, fitness classes, challenges, free body scans, exhibitors with information and activities that focus on traditional and new trends in nutrition, health, relaxation, and MORE. Prize drawings all day. Admission is FREE.

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)

Annual Volunteer and Member Dinner

You're Invited!

Date: January 21, 2018,
4:00 PM- 6PM

Reason: To thank all of our wonderful, hard working volunteers and thoughtful members, donors, and sponsors for all their support this last year!

Location: Ridgefield Community Center
210 N Main Ave
Ridgefield, WA 98642

Please RSVP 'Yes' to: contact@ridgefieldfriends.org
by January 14th
Please include the number in your party when you RSVP, and contact information

The Refuge Chef is providing our main course, please feel free to bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Additional Information:

The meeting will include a summary of Refuge projects undertaken this year, as well as future projects. Current Members will elect new Friends' Board Members.

Want to vote but not a current Friends member? Or membership expired?

Become a member & receive all the benefits of membership!... Also, be able to vote in this year's elections! Friends' membership details & online payment can be found [here!](#)

[See the full schedule here!](#)

Species Spotlight

Spotted Towhee

Pipilo maculatus



The Spotted Towhee is a large, handsome sparrow, often heard before seen, hopping about in the dry brush. They can be difficult to spot among the dry brown leaves; your best bet to catch a glimpse of this beauty is to walk slowly along the edge of a forest, brushy edges or undergrowth. Listen for its cat-like mewing call or rapid, buzzy song. The Spotted Towhee lives in the Northwest year-round, so there are plenty of chances to get out, visit the Refuge, catch a glimpse, and enjoy all that nature has to offer. **Keep Reading...**

Photo By: Angie Vogel

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!

Upcoming Events to Save the Date for:

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

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

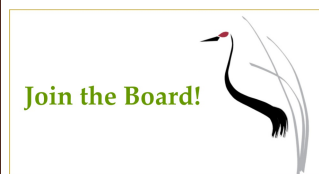
What is all that on the red stuff on the water?

We are often questioned about the "red stuff" on the sloughs and ponds at this time of year. What is that stuff? It is called Mexican Water-fern, *Azolla mexicana*, and is also known as mosquito fern. [Keep Reading...](#)



-Susan Setterberg, Volunteer & Board Member

Board Seeking Applications!



Join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Board!

Apply for this unpaid volunteer position by

January 5th, 2018!

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge ("Friends") is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Refuge. Our mission is: promoting educational programs of the Ridgefield NWR, enhancing awareness and appreciation of the Refuge, and protecting and enhancing its wildlife habitat.

The Board of Directors is an action-oriented group which is passionate about its mission. The board retains responsibility for all aspects of the organization's activity and delegates management responsibilities to staff. The Board retains all responsibility for finances and financial accountability, leadership development and governance. Board members

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 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 End of the Road 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!

serve three (3) year terms and contribute 10-15 hours per month to the program. The board meets monthly for 60-90 minutes and board members are expected to actively participate in projects or on committees with responsibility for resource development/fundraising, community outreach, leadership/human resources and strategic planning.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD SERVICE:

Interested candidates should have:

A demonstrated interest and passion in the organization's mission and goals.

Specific experience or knowledge in at least one area: human resources, planning, finance, community outreach, nature/wildlife, the legal field.

Volunteer or employment experience that demonstrates: professionalism, leadership ability, community service, collaborative skills, and effective communication abilities.

A willingness to participate in board fundraising activities.

A willingness to expand knowledge or board responsibilities through orientation and ongoing training.

A willingness to represent the organization to the community.

An ability to meet the time commitment requirements to be an effective board member.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates must submit a letter of interest (and resume if desired) including the following information:

Qualifications for the position including occupational/employment background and community service work.

Interest in the Friends of the RNWR organization, the Refuge, and the position.

A description of the skills and/or strengths the applicant would contribute to the organization.

Mail or Email resumes and letters of interest to Friends of the RNWR at: P.O. Box 1022, Ridgefield, WA 98642 OR contact@ridgefieldfriend.org.

Feel free to [contact us](#) for any questions or inquiries.

[Donate](#)



Our Sponsors

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!



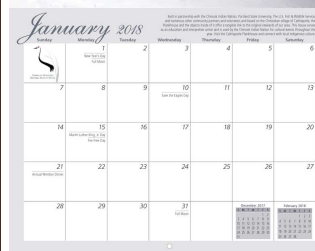
Check out our [Zazzle Store](#) for the Stellar's Jay
[Click here for the BirdFest & Bluegrass logo](#)

Need a 2018 Calendar?

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge's 2018 Calendar is almost gone! 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 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!

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!

(There may still be a few in stores around town, at the Vancouver Backyard Bird Shop, and Loowit Brewing. We recommend you call ahead to check first.)

Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



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!



REDFIN

- 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.

Fee Free Days 2018:

- January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 19 - Presidents Day
- September 22 - National Public Lands Day
- October 14 - First Sunday of National Wildlife Refuge Week
- November 11 - Veterans Day

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

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 please sign up at 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](#)

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

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

Egrets, the strong, silent type of the animal kingdom

I started here in mid-January 2017. In fact, I started closer to the end of January due to quite a few days of weather closures. Snow! On one of my very first days on the job I watched a coyote nimbly trot through snow on the River 'S' Unit.

By the spring, Gee Creek was so high the term "creek" was an aspersion. You could say the rains dampened our restoration efforts. This was in stark contrast to our summer efforts, where for weeks the only rain we may have received came in the form of ash from nearby wildfires. Only when fall came did we feel any sense of normalcy, except, by December it stopped raining again! It was gloriously sunny during the day, and by night we got a short spell of a brilliant super moon. **Keep Reading...**



Now you can sign up to volunteer easily on our website!
Check it out by clicking here!
Check out more about Habitat Restoration here!

Questions? Contact Keith_Rutz@fws.gov for more information

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!

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: Marguerite Hills

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

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Address postal inquiries to:
Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
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Ridgefield, WA 98642
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