



March 2018

## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



### Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

**Wild in the City Open House March 3rd!**  
(click to view larger)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**MARCH 3 | 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**WILD IN THE CITY**

800-C NE Tenney Road Vancouver, WA 98685  
**THREE CREEKS LIBRARY**

**YOU are invited to join us for this FREE EVENT, as we bring the National Wildlife Refuge System to the City...**

Come learn about recreational opportunities and how to get involved at your local National Wildlife Refuge. Staff and volunteers will engage people of all ages in learning about local wildlife, ongoing conservation projects, volunteering, and upcoming events in your area. Hands-on activities, informational booths and light refreshments will be provided from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, on Saturday, March 3.

[www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield)

**Join us at Three Creeks Library in Vancouver, WA on March 3rd from 11am to 4pm! Learn more about your local National Wildlife Refuges this Saturday as the Refuge System comes to the city.**

**Learn about recreational opportunities, volunteering, upcoming refuge projects and habitat restoration practices.**

**This hands-on FREE family-friendly event will have something for everyone to enjoy.**

*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.*

## Spring Volunteer Naturalist Trainings!

(click flyer to view larger or download)

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**Benefits of Membership:  
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?

Find out more, or 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.

## Calling all Volunteers!

**Types of Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Habitat Restoration**



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
Ridgefield & Steigerwald Lake NWRs

**Learn & Connect.  
People. Nature. Culture.**

Join us for the most fun and interactive volunteer training of the season. People of all backgrounds, experience levels and interests come together to learn about wildlife, habitat, culture, and communication techniques. Whether you have experience or are looking to learn something new, this training is for you! Volunteers teach students, engage visitors, help with on and offsite events, and much much more.

**March 31**  
What Makes a Refuge Unique

**April 7**  
Connecting People to Nature

**April 14**  
Lifeways and Landscapes

**April 21**  
Wetlands & Wildlife

For more information and to sign up email: [RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov](mailto:RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov)

Event supported by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Center and the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to the world for all participants. Please note we cannot accept anyone who is unable to walk, stand, climb, swim, or use a wheelchair. For more information, please contact the Refuge at 360-887-4106. This event is not open to children under 18 without a parent or guardian. Please see our website for more information.

[www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield)

Whether you want to work with students and the public to spread the conservation message, teach about local indigenous culture, or get your hands dirty doing habitat work, this training will show you how local refuges manage habitat and inspire people. This four part interactive series will include presentations, activities, and field trips.

Volunteers get to see the most beautiful places on the refuge while helping to ensure that native wildlife have food and shelter. Summer work is focused on maintaining winter plantings and controlling invasive plants that threaten to take over habitat. Crews meet on most Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Contact Sean Davis at [Sean\\_Davis@fws.gov](mailto:Sean_Davis@fws.gov) or 360-887-3883 x 14

### Refuge and Trail Greeters

Over 120,000 visitors flock to the refuge annually to enjoy nature through participation in wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, cultural interpretation, hunting, and fishing. Volunteers help to make their experiences meaningful. Share your enthusiasm for nature and make the Refuge a welcoming place for people walking our trails, stopping at the Visitor Contact Station and driving the AutoTour. Contact Josie Finley at [josie\\_finley@fws.gov](mailto:josie_finley@fws.gov) or 360-887-4106 x 130

### Cathlapotle Plankhouse

The Cathlapotle Plankhouse draws thousands of visitors to the Refuge each year. Help share the legacy of the Indigenous people who have tended to this place since time immemorial as a Plankhouse Docent or Cultural Educator. Field trips take place during the weekdays. Docents staff the house on weekends from April - September. Contact Juliet McGraw at [juliet\\_mcgraw@fws.gov](mailto:juliet_mcgraw@fws.gov) 360-887-4106 x 123

### Education

Help us inspire the next generation. Kids of all ages need hands-on learning and inspiration in the great outdoors as part of a well-rounded education. We need your help to make their visit to the Refuge fun and memorable. Field trips take place during the weekdays starting in April. Contact Josie Finley at [josie\\_finley@fws.gov](mailto:josie_finley@fws.gov) or 360-887-4106 x 130

Topics being developed may include major restoration techniques such as fire management, oak restoration, wetland and field conservation for waterfowl, and floodplain restoration in the Gorge. Local indigenous culture and the long history of habitat conservation by First Peoples will be explored through the Cathlapotle Plankhouse. Species specific presentations and tours of the Refuge will highlight the wildlife that benefit from these activities and communication techniques to share this great work with our surrounding communities.

If any of this sounds interesting contact: Josie Finley at 360-887-4106 or [ridgefieldvolunteer@fws.gov](mailto:ridgefieldvolunteer@fws.gov) for questions and to sign up.

Trainings will be Saturdays:

**March 31**-What Makes a Refuge Unique

**April 7**-Connecting People to Nature

**April 14**-Lifeways and Landscapes

**April 21**-Wetlands and Wildlife



**\*Note: March 14th will be Cathlapotle Plankhouse Day- Required for docents and Carty Trail Stewards**

## Environmental & Cultural Education Program

### Education Outreach

As part of a large community assessment done by the *US Fish & Wildlife Service Urban Program*, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge was able to identify Ridgefield 3rd, 4th and 5th graders as our Target Audience. Because of this, our team made it out to South Ridge and Union Ridge elementary schools to visit fourth graders in the community. Sean Davis and Juliet McGraw visited with students last Friday, giving the kids an interactive overview of the geography of Washington state, how climate and geography shaped indigenous cultures in the past, and showcased the ***Every Kid in a Park Pass*** for fourth graders.

The Every Kid in a Park Pass is the public lands pass that every fourth grader in the nation can get and use for their whole family. It gets them in to national lands (Parks, Wildlife Refuges, etc) free of admission (parking/camping still have a cost). [Find out more here!](#)

### 2018 Teacher Trainings (required) Sessions still open and Clock Hours available!

This training will be good for three years. Sessions are held from 10am to 2:30pm on March 24th. Due to snow cancellations, more dates will be available soon. Sign up by emailing [ridgefieldeducation@fws.gov](mailto:ridgefieldeducation@fws.gov).

Limited space will be available each day so attending sooner rather than later is suggested.

**\*For on-site Refuge field trips, one teacher each field trip day must have attended one of the orientation days.**



### 2018 School Field Trips

Offered May and June, Tuesdays-Fridays. Applications being accepted **ONLINE ONLY** February 1st through

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

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

## Ridgefield First Saturday: Youth Arts

**March 3, 2018 10am-3pm**



**Encourage a lifetime of creativity! Ridgefield Youth Arts Month**



March 15th.

For information about the **2018 Education and Field Trips- including Classroom Visits, On-Site Visits and REQUIRED Teacher Trainings, click here!**

## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Update & Events



### CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE

Celebrating Ten Years ▶ 2005 - 2015

#### Wild in the City

Join us at the Three Creeks Library in Salmon Creek and come check out the Cathlapotle Plankhouse booth at our open house this weekend! We will have hands-on activities, as well as items from the House for you to explore. We will have educators on hand to field your questions and help you learn more about the lifeways and landscapes that are unique to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

**Teachers** – we will also be showcasing our NEW grab-and-go teacher-led activities that can be checked out from our Environmental & Cultural Educational Program.

#### Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday Series

We will be celebrating *Lifeways and Landscapes* throughout the 2018 season. Each Second Sunday of the month we will feature speakers, demonstrators, and other presenters focused on topics that relate to indigenous culture and the rich habitat provided by the Refuge. You

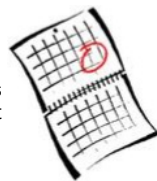


can look forward to topics relating to indigenous women's labor, ancestors and grandchildren, seasonality, ancestral oak stands, and of course our always popular Traditional Technologies Day.

Second Sundays begin in May and will continue through December. This year we are experimenting with a longer series and have added three additional events to the tail end of our series, extending it to the end of the year. We hope that you enjoy this additional programming and hope to see you often!

#### Save the Date!

Saturday, May 5th, the Cathlapotle Plankhouse opens to the public. Hours are from 12 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays. The House remains open until BirdFest 2018 in October.



Interested in learning more about local indigenous cultures? Do you have a passion for our regional landscape? Be sure to attend April 14, the Plankhouse Day, in our Naturalist Training Series! Come join our team of citizen educators, docents, and trail stewards at the Carty Unit.

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



(click link to view the Plankhouse listing)

**Preserve America** is a national initiative in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the U.S. Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Education; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; and the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

## Habitat Restoration

represents a partnership between Ridgefield School District and the Ridgefield community encouraging young people to take part in artistic endeavors including literary, visual, musical, and performing arts.

**Youth Arts Month happens throughout the month of March with events taking place at all four district schools as well as at community businesses and organizations.**

**See the full schedule here!**

## Species Spotlight

### Mourning Dove

*Zenaidura macroura*



The melancholy, soulful cooing of the mourning dove is familiar and soothing, signaling the beginning of nesting, claiming their territory, and raising their young. Although one of the most abundant and popular North American birds, the mourning dove is equally as popular with hunters. The ability to sustain its population under such circumstances is due primarily to its generous breeding – one pair may raise up to six broods of young in one year. This approach is crucial, as their mortality rates are high – 58% a year for adults and 69% for young. **Keep Reading...**

**-Victoria Haugen- Board Secretary**

Photo By: Lyn Topinka

## 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...**

## 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!

Just \$15 on sale!

Your purchase helps support our public lands, protecting wildlife and the history of our area, in perpetuity. With gorgeous

## Updates & Events

### Frenetic February, Management March!



February on the Refuge brought us an early hint of spring before reminding us that winter is not yet ready to call it a day. The warm dry start to the month saw Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) fooled into bloom and herbicide spray equipment pulled from the shed. Two weeks later we were canceling events because of snow and ice and rewinterizing. In spite of the frenetic weather, habitat work continued with the clearing of derelict barbed-wire fences from the Carty Unit and blackberries from the River S Unit. In addition, along stretches of the auto-tour route, volunteer work parties prepped and...[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](mailto:Keith_Rutz@fws.gov) for more information

## From the Contact Station

### I saw an eagle; it was so big!



Winter is a great time for seeing the "big birds." Many are here to fuel up for the coming nesting season up north. Some are hunters and are easily seen flying over the refuge in search of prey. Some are stalking prey on the ground. Then others are on the open ponds or fields looking for a more vegetarian diet. Nevertheless, they stand out. There are several ways to assess size of birds; weight, body length when perched or height when standing or wingspan come to mind. Let's focus on wingspan for now as most of these birds can be seen flying around us [Keep Reading...](#)

-Susan Setterberg, Volunteer & Board President, Photo by Dennis Davenport - 2016 Photo Contest Honorable Mention

## Name that Bird!

*(click photo to view larger)*

Welcome to our new monthly section in our E-Newsletter! Every so often, guests will send us photos to help identify wildlife on the Refuge, and we want to see if you can do it too! What do you think this lovely bird above is?



Email your answers to [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) and we will announce who got it right, and what the answer is, in next month's newsletter! Stay tuned!

## 2018 Events to Save the Date for:

Keep an eye out for more information on these events!

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



## Partner Events to Save the Date for:

Tualatin River Bird Festival: May 19th, 2018

photos of wildlife and a little learning, what more could you ask for?

Find yours today at [Seasons Coffee Tea and Remedies](#) inside the Old Liberty Theater in downtown Ridgefield, or email us at [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) and we can mail you one.

## Birding Enthusiasts



See what is being seen at the refuge this week at our [Bird Sightings and Species List](#) page

## Our Sponsors





The Friends of the Refuge, in conjunction with Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, welcome you to our **22nd Annual Tualatin River Bird Festival**. This is a **FREE** family-friendly event! Join the Friends of the Refuge for diverse family-friendly activities

celebrating wildlife and wild places.

For more information contact Bonnie Anderson:

[Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org](mailto:Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org)

[Check out the Friends of the Refuge's webpage here to stay up to date on this event, and what all is going on in Tualatin!](#)

### Big Paddle: June 2nd, 2018

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! Registration is already open! [Check out the schedule HERE](#), and sign up [today!](#)



## Help the Friends and the Refuge When You Shop



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.

### 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.

### Or Shop Online and Give through Giving Assistant



Giving Assistant makes it easy to donate to Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge! Simply shop online, earn cash back, and donate as much as 30% of your purchase price—Giving Assistant facilitates the whole process. Now, you can help change the world for free while saving money at over 3,000 popular online retailers like Home Depot, ULTA, and Macy's! [Start HERE!](#)

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.



Lucy's Garden Winery  
Ridgefield, Washington

### 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.
- Portland Audubon



Header Photo Credit: William Lee, 2010 Photo Contest Honorable  
Mention



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