



April 2018

Spring Volunteer Naturalist Trainings!

(click flyer to view larger or download)

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

Event sponsored by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Content and the National Wildlife Refuge System. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this work for all participants. Please email us regarding any accessibility, language, or other needs. Contact: 503-887-4106. #MyConservationLife. Photo credit: USFWS. All rights reserved. This content may be shared by email or printed and used online.

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. 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 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**

New Benefits of Membership!

New Businesses on our Member Card!

Thanks to our new board member, Spiritual Leader of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Tanna Engdahl, we were able to add some new discounts to the coupon section of our member card! Now, members can receive 10% off at select Ilani Restaurants! If you have an old member card and would like the new one but it isn't time to renew, [contact us](#) with your contact info and we will get you a new card. [Join or Renew by clicking here](#) today!



Have you done your taxes yet?

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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:

LEARN HOW YOUR TAX RETURN CAN HELP.

FRIENDS OF THE RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

For every new client who files their taxes with H&R Block or Block Advisors, \$20 will be donated to our organization. **The total donation amount is unlimited!**

Find an office near you at hrblock.com or blockadvisors.com.

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If not, get some help from H&R Block and help us out at the same time! For every new client who files their taxes with H&R Block or Block Advisors, \$20 will be donated to The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge! The total donation amount is unlimited! Print or show the flier below with our nonprofit number at your local H&R Block to get started!

(click to view or download)

Habitat Restoration

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 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 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 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 or 360-887-4106 x 130

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 Refuge Complex News & Events



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Environmental & Cultural Education Program

- **Field Trips**
2018 Spring Season FULL - No more applications being accepted. Summer (July and August) programming enrollment will be available in May.
- **Opportunities for Learning on the Refuge**
Any topic can be taught and inspired through nature. Use our trails as your outdoor classroom. We are happy to provide you with advice on creating an educational program that is age appropriate and geared toward your learning objectives.

Please do check to make sure that your activities are appropriate for the site before visiting and that there are no other schedule groups or maintenance that may inhibit your visit. [Learn More](#)

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 Second Sunday Series

We will be celebrating *Lifeways and Landscapes* throughout the 2018

Ridgefield First Saturday: Detective Mystery

April 7, 2018 9am-2pm

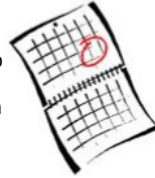


popular Traditional Technologies Day.

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 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.

Name that Bird!

Last month's answer was a first year male Common Goldeneye (check out the species spotlight for more information)!

Terry Anderson was the first to get it totally right by guessing male, and Robin Bradford and Roger Windemuth both guessed the species correctly as well! There is some debate on the gender, but after careful consideration, and lots of research, we decided there is the barest hint of a white patch developing behind the bill, it lacks the yellow bill tip the females usually have, and it most closely resembled #11 and #15 on [this list](#). Compare for yourself with the photo from [last month here](#).

(click photo to view larger)

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 these little guys are?

Email your answers to contact@ridgefieldfriends.org and we will announce who got it right, and what the answer is, in next month's newsletter! Stay tuned! And, if you have a photo that took some time to identify, or that you need help with, send it our way and it may end up here!



Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

Mostly Mild March

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



Hilariously exciting, fun interactive murder mystery theater entertainment while enjoying a walk around downtown Ridgefield – starting with the murder at Overlook Park. **See the full schedule here!**

Species Spotlight

Common Goldeneye
Bucephala clangula



The common goldeneye is a medium-sized duck, named chiefly for its brilliant amber yellow eyes which, along with its dark green iridescent head, add a splash of color to the gloomy winter shades of the Northwest.

The common goldeneye is the more numerous of the two goldeneye species, often seen in small flocks but sometimes in large groups as well. These ducks are divers. Interestingly, when feeding, all the birds in one section of a flock may dive... **Keep Reading...**

-Victoria Haugen- Board Secretary
Photo By: [Wikimedia Commons Deleted Flickr link](#)

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

Volunteers spent March on the Refuge finishing up plantings and starting in on spring cleaning. Despite our somewhat abbreviated winter season, close to 400 trees and shrubs were planted across the landscape. Nine different species were planted to enhance habitat... [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

From the Contact Station

Slithering Snakes!



The beginning of warmer weather has resulted in the emergence of our refuge snakes. They have been spotted sunning near the blind and, unfortunately for a few, in the deadly jaws of Great Blue Herons. We have three snake species on the Refuge: Red-spotted (Common) Garter Snake, Northwestern Garter Snake and

the Rubber Boa. All snakes are an important part of the natural food chain... [Keep Reading...](#)

-Susan Setterberg, Volunteer & Board President
 Photo: Red-spotted (Common) Garter Snake

We Are Stewards- FYI98642

Local resident, Byron Brink, brings attention to the Refuge, and the impacts of the community around it, in two parts.



Byron Brink has a history of being outspoken about the development happening in and around Ridgefield, with articles in the Columbian and The Reflector over the years, all highlighting the rapid expansion of homes in Ridgefield and their impact on the town, the schools, and the Refuge. Because of one such article, local blogger Kathy

Winters reached out to ask him to write a piece for her popular Ridgefield blog, FYI98642. The response came in two parts, which you can read here:

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

[Click here to see](#) the opinion piece in The Reflector that caught Kathy's attention.

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



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

[Check out the Friends of the Refuge's webpage here to stay up to date on](#)

refuge this week at our [Bird Sightings and Species List page](#)

Business Members



Our Sponsors



Lucy's Garden Winery

Ridgefield, Washington

REDFIN

[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!



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The Columbian
Corwin Beverages
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National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Parr Lumber
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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.

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.

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.



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



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