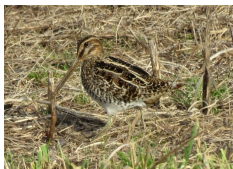




May 2018

From the Contact Station

Snipe Hunt!



As I write this, there are 10 more days to go and the Kiwa Trail will be open to walkers. Time for a Snipe Hunt. You might recall that a snipe hunt calls for an individual to be taken out into the woods at night with a big sack with instructions on how to call in and capture the animal, which

might be described as a half jack rabbit/half squirrel or some kind of furry bird. **Keep Reading...**

-Susan Setterberg, Volunteer & Board President

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Calling all Volunteers- Help at Partner Events:

The Friends are looking for help with outreach and events! Check out the list below to get involved. Shifts can be as short or as long as you are available, you won't be alone, and you'll even have time to enjoy the event!

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.

Booths will be up from 10am- 4pm, with set up beforehand. This is a great free event that you can enjoy when you aren't tabling with us. [Contact us](#) today to get started.

[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!






Booths will be up from 8am to 4:30pm, and booths must be up before 8am. This event is also free and there is lots of time to walk around, enjoy the food, marketplace and more! [Contact us](#) today to get started.

[Check out the schedule HERE, and sign up for walks, guided paddles and more, today!](#)

Ridgefield Lions Club



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

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.



Our local Ridgefield Lions Club works hard to help out our community, as well as the Friends specifically- as a thank you to them, we try to get as many volunteers to help them with their events as we can! It's easy to sign up online, and you can shorten shifts if you need to. Helping them helps us, and make sure to let them know the Friends sent you! Check out their [events and sign up page](#)

[here](#) (check back for updates monthly) and get started supporting two great causes at once!

Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Kiwa Trail Opens May 1st!



The Kiwa Trail, a short 1.2-mile loop trail open May 1 through September 30, is the only walking trail available on this unit. The path is compacted gravel and accessible to wheelchairs and strollers.

The trail passes through an understory of Oregon ash trees and between open wetland areas, with a few wooden boardwalks.

Did you know? Between May 1 and September 30, visitors may also walk the River 'S' Auto Tour Route! Please be courteous when driving, look out

for people walking, and keep other cars in mind when pulling over for viewing!

The Carty Lake Trail, accessible from the Carty Unit (and viewable from the bridge) opens on May 1st as well! This is an out-and-back trail that starts on the Carty Unit, takes you out to the Port of Ridgefield and back. There is still no access from the Port side, there is a locked gate barring entry- please obey all signs.



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. Check the [link here](#) for updated information.

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

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 First Saturday: May Day Spring Festival

May 5, 2018 8am - 3pm



It is the Third Anniversary of First Saturday!! Join us to usher in a fresh new season complete with Maypole dance, Farmer's Market season grand opening, outdoor games, scavenger hunt, art, food and more!

A few first time activities this year: Ridgefield Main Street is hosting a scavenger hunt, Windy Hills Winery & Spudder's Crest will be serving local wines, Ridgefield Kayak is guiding a themed paddle, the Cathlapotle House is opening and there will be Cinco de Mayo activities.

The Ridgefield Art Association is hosting its annual art fair & sale at Overlook Park. The



Cathlapotle Plankhouse Season Opening



Saturday, May 5th, the Cathlapotle Plankhouse opens to the public. Please join us as we open the door on another beautiful season of sharing the rich indigenous cultural heritage of the Lower Columbia River Peoples. Plankhouse

Docents will be on hand to offer mini-tours through the House, Carty Unit Trail Stewards will be active on the *Oaks to Wetlands* and *Carty Lake* trails. We will also have a variety of self-led activities available for visitors over the weekend. Cathlapotle Plankhouse is open from 12:00 to 4:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. The House remains open though BirdFest 2018 (October 6th and 7th), after which it closes to the public until the following spring.

(IMPORTANT NOTE: The *Carty Lake Trail* is only accessible through the Refuge currently. The Port of Ridgefield kiosk and gate are not open and you should not enter the RNWR from the Port. Please make sure that you are entering the *Carty Lake Trail* from the Carty Unit only.) **Keep Reading...**

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday Series

Come celebrate Mother's Day at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge!

We are very pleased to announce Melissa Darby will be our first Second Sunday speaker for 2018. Darby was one of the original archaeologists at the Cathlapotle Village site and conducted ethnobotanical analysis of wapato recovered from the site. In addition to local research, she has traveled to Japan, England, Germany, and Italy exploring cross-cultural uses of this very important root food. Please come join us as Melissa shares memories of the Cathlapotle Village excavations, preparing wapato in the current Plankhouse. She will also cover the importance of indigenous women's labor and women's status within the community. **Keep Reading...**



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.

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

Garden Club will also hold its annual plant sale at the Ridgefield School District Maintenance Building.

[See the full schedule here!](#)

Species Spotlight

Golden-crowned Sparrow
Zonotrichia atricapilla



Golden-crowned Sparrows are winter birds around here for us. We see them in abundance while it is cold, before they take off for the tundra areas of British Columbia and Alaska for the rest of the year. Golden-crowned sparrows are large plump sparrows that have a distinctive... **Keep Reading...**

Photo By: Lyn Topinka

Birding Enthusiasts



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

Business Members



Our Sponsors

My Deer, May the Weather be Nice!

Early spring invasive work continued across the Refuge in April.

Those large brown spots on the flanks of Swartz Dike as seen from the Auto Tour Route were formally large patches of poison hemlock and tansy ragwort. You might also notice narrow-leaf plantain, shiny geranium, and thistles curled up along the "Oaks to Wetland" Trail.



Certified sprayers, both staff and volunteer, spot-spray patches and individual plants early in the season before blooms start to attract pollinators.



The camas patch just north of the plankhouse came to above-ground life, pushing up blade-like leaves, some of which have been nibbled down, but it looks like we had close to 140 of the 300 bulbs we planted survive their first year. A search of 30 random holes planted

with bulbs, but absence above ground leaves, found only 1 bulb remaining, perhaps planted too deep. Please remember to not pick the flowers on the refuge as their seeds are next year's bulbs, and a future winter larder for whatever rodent stole all those bulbs we planted.

In May/June volunteers will be performing planting maintenance on several fields filled with trees and shrubs planted in 2014-2015. This is not the standing in water, or at least wading through it, planting maintenance of willow stands that some may be familiar with, but a nice, probably partly sunny, probably dry, slightly weeding like experience on areas of the refuge not normally accessed by non-volunteers.



Every Wednesday 9 AM-12:30 PM! Sign up below or email today!

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

Name the Wildlife!

Last month's answer was a group of Golden-crowned Sparrows! (check out the species spotlight for more information)!

See the answer from last month, and a closer photo for yourself [here!](#)

For May:

(click photo to be taken to a larger photo)

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! Who do you think this is, seen at Steigerwald Lake NWR?



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!

2018 Events to Save the Date for:

Keep an eye out for more information on these events!



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

Donate

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



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. 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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