

# The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

*The latest updates | January, 2018*



Thank you for your support and hours of volunteer work in 2018. We are very excited about 2019 and all the opportunities to protect endangered species and other wildlife, restore habitat, and engage people in nature!

Join us Saturday, January 26th, from 11am-1pm for our Annual Membership Meeting! Learn more and RSVP by clicking the invite below.



(Click to view larger or download)

## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events Concerning the Government Shutdown

Due to the lapse in federal appropriations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is unable to fully staff the properties under its management. However, where public access to refuge lands does not require the presence of a federal employee or contractor, activities on refuge lands will be allowed to continue on the same terms as before the appropriations lapse, including any activities conducted under a previously issued permit (when required). Visitors are advised to use caution if choosing to enter units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, as most FWS personnel will not be available for the duration of the shutdown. Law enforcement personnel will remain on duty to provide emergency services and protect government property. However, any entry onto Refuge System property during this period of federal government shutdown is at the visitor's sole risk.



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 7:30 am to 3:30 pm at 360-887-4106. (Not open during the shutdown)

## Thank you to all of our 2018 Supporters!



3 Peaks  
Alder Creek Kayak  
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Tom Finn  
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Bob Flores  
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Anita Freyman-Danielsen  
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Heather Gramp  
Michael Greenstreet  
Jim Gola  
Erinne Goodell  
Mary Grout  
Jan Haig  
Bonnie Hankins  
Richard Hannan  
Irene Fisher & Craig Hansen  
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Simran Winkelstern  
Jennifer Wolcott & Daniel Heinrichs  
Karen Wood  
Jeffrey Yellin  
Tom and Lisa Zeiner

In Memory of Syndey Reisbick:  
Jan Haig  
Mrs. James Johnson

In Memory of Lance Wilson:  
Enas H Wilson

In Honor of Greg Hranac:  
Gary Blefgen & the USFWS Division of  
Engineering

In Memory of Mary Coleen

In honor of Randy Wuerfel

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## From the Contact Station Getting a Closer Look

At the beginning of the summer, the contact station volunteers, with permission from the FWS staff, brought in a seed feeder to hang in one of the cottonwoods by the station. We started with black oil sunflower seeds. It was a slow birding summer. Mostly we had visits from the California Scrub Jays. They have been frequent visitors for some time.





Changing to a mix of seeds (the cheap kind) we started seeing...[Keep Reading](#)

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## Calling All Volunteers!

### 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. Contact Keith Rutz at [Keith\\_rutz@fws.gov](mailto:Keith_rutz@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 Auto Tour. 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 land 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.

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

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## 2019 Refuge Photo Contest Calendars

There is still time to get your Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest 2019 Calendar! Check out the winners from the 2018 contest, learn about the subjects of the photos, and stay up-to-date on important events, volunteer opportunities, and more. Support volunteer programs like habitat restoration and educational programming, and host beautiful photos of wildlife and the Refuge in your home the whole year through. Just \$18.00 for the standard heavyweight gloss 8.5×11 (opens to 11×17) calendar, or \$23.00 for the XL 11×14 (opens to 14×22) size! Choose your own preferred binding color - and keep a little piece of the Refuge right in your own home. [Shop online here!](#)



To buy in-store (8.5×11 only) check out these locations:

[Season's Coffee Tea & Remedies](#) (In the Old Liberty Theater)  
[Ridgefield Floral](#)

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## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events



This winter we are working hard on our second year of revitalizing our Cultural and Environmental Education Program. Refuge and Friends staff are focused on connecting the Since Time Immemorial (STI) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) curricula for in-classroom and on-site visits. The Cathlapotle Plankhouse Collections are being reviewed and updated to contemporary curatorial standards. Come see us in the spring and check out some of the display changes in the Plankhouse. Stay tuned for updates on dates, Second Sunday themes, and more!



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

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**PIERCE NWR HABITAT RESTORATION**  
**8:30 AM - 12:30 PM & 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Pierce National Wildlife Refuge  
 (Sign-up required; event on Ridgefield Lake front)

**HELP RESTORE HABITAT ON THE REFUGE**

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge invite you to join us in the field and help make a difference. Work parties are focused on planting 700 shrubs at Pierce NWR.

All work days are rain or shine. Rubber boots and gloves provided. Please bring pants. We will also provide drinking water and snacks to keep you hydrated and fueled. Arrive early to sign volunteer paperwork.

Proceeds from the adoption program for this event go to:

**Volunteer & Community Service Opportunities**

Saturdays at Pierce NWR  
 (Two shifts each, limit 12, sign-up required)  
 January: 12, 19  
 February: 9, 16, 23

To sign up, email: [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org), or go to: [www.ridgefieldfriends.org/volunteer-main.html](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org/volunteer-main.html)

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

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**HABITAT RESTORATION**  
**9:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge  
 (Sign-up required; event on the River 'S' Unit, 1071 Williams, Ridgefield, WA)

**HELP RESTORE HABITAT ON THE REFUGE**

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge invites you to join us in the field and help make a difference. Work parties are focused on clearing and seeding under our mature Ash trees on the River 'S' Unit and removal of beaver fencing of the Carty Unit. From mid-January through March the priority will be planting 350-400 trees and shrubs.

All work days are rain or shine. Rubber boots and gloves provided. Please bring pants. We will also provide drinking water and snacks to keep you hydrated and fueled. Arrive early to sign volunteer paperwork.

Proceeds from the adoption program for this event go to:

**Volunteer & Community Service Opportunities**

Wednesdays at Ridgefield NWR-  
 January: 9, 16, 23  
 February: 6, 13, 20

You can just drop in, or sign up! Email: [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org), or go to: [www.ridgefieldfriends.org](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org)

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

**Wednesdays at Ridgefield NWR-**  
 January: 9, 16, 23  
 February: 6, 13, 20

**Saturdays at Pierce NWR (Shifts: 8:30-12:00 & 12:00-4:00; limit 12, sign-up required)-**  
 January: 12, 19  
 February: 9, 16, 23

**\*\* Please note: if the government shutdown is still in effect, work parties will not take place.**

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

Thank you to the volunteers who braved the weather in December to come out and help us clear and plant around the Ash trees for improved deer habitat. Right now we are currently focused on clearing and seeding under our mature Ash trees on the River 'S' Unit, and removal of beaver fencing at the Carty Unit at Ridgefield NWR. In mid-January through March the priority will be planting 700 shrubs at Pierce NWR and 350-400 trees and shrubs at Ridgefield NWR. These work parties will be Wednesdays at Ridgefield from



9:00am-12:00 pm, and Saturdays at Pierce NWR with shifts at 8:30am-12:00pm and 12:00pm-4:00pm (limit 12 volunteers for Saturday crews, sign-up required) until everything is planted. Click the flyers to sign up. Note: The Pierce work party dates have their own sign up - **please sign up in advance.**

General Habitat Questions? Contact [Keith Rutz](#) for more information.



## Ridgefield First Saturday: Lazy Dayz

Saturday, January 5, 2019 9am-4pm

The Ridgefield Community Center will be transformed into a cozy living room theater. Bring a blanket, pillow and get comfortable. Or, buy a used book for \$1 and settle in to read. Chair Massage, Cider Remedy Class, and prize drawings around town.

[Check out the full schedule here!](#)

## Species Spotlight

Rough-skinned Newt  
*Taricha granulosa*



Some of you may have come across some interesting visitors in your wood piles this winter! Salamanders and newts are known for hiding away in decaying wood in the winter as they prepare for, mate, or lay eggs. Rough-skinned newts in particular...[Keep Reading...](#)

## Birding Enthusiasts



Check out what species are being seen on the Refuge [here](#).

## Sponsors

### Business Alliance Members:



### BirdFest & Bluegrass:



## Granting Organizations & Partners:





### In-Kind Support:



### Support the Friends While 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 click here.](#) You can search for us by our name, Friends of Ridgefield NWR, or by our non-profit number, PK822. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping earn a donation to support the Friends and Ridgefield NWR. If you do not have a Rewards Card, ask at the Customer Service desk of any FM store.



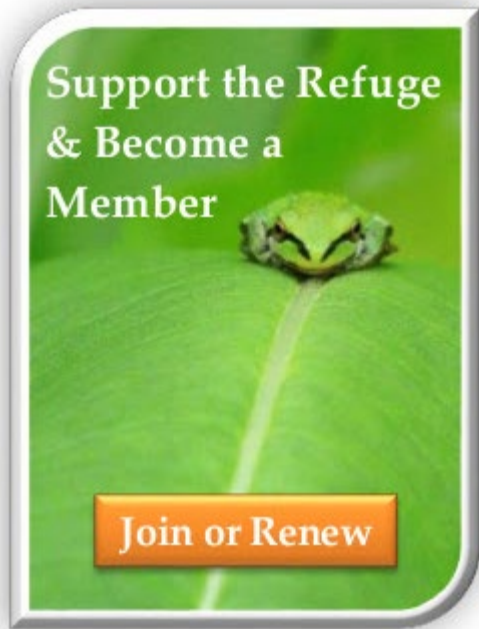
Log on to smile.amazon.com and shop as you usually would - .5% of your purchase will be donated directly to the Friends! Use the link with your existing user name and password. When prompted to select a charity, choose the Friends of Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge.



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!

### 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? 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? How about a night out at Ilani? Find out more, 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.



Give Today

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge promote the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native and endangered birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest. Visit us on the web at [www.ridgefieldfriends.org](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org)

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.

Friend  Follow  Connect  Follow 

Header Photo Credit: Raul Moreno, 2nd Place, 2017 Refuge Photo Contest

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