

# The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

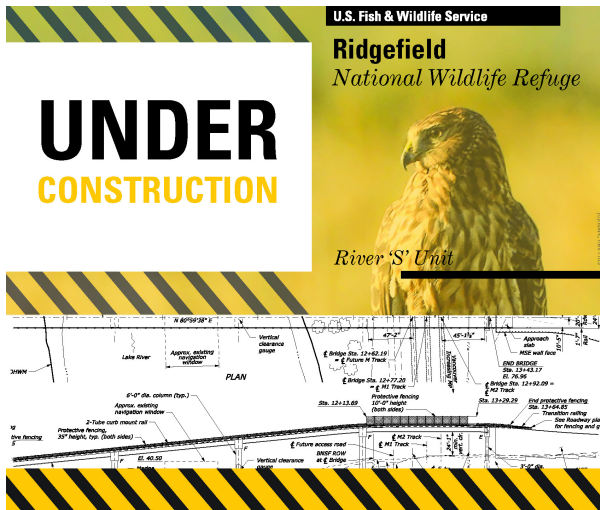
The latest updates | March, 2019



## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events

### River 'S' Auto Tour Closure - Bridge Work

On March 18, 2019, construction will begin to replace the existing single-lane bridge that provides access over Lake River to the Auto Tour Route and the Kiwa Trail at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge's River 'S' Unit. The new bridge will be two lanes wide and will cross over both the railroad tracks and the river.



### WHY IS THIS AN IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENT?

This is a much-needed project to improve public safety and relieve congestion to the Refuge's very popular Auto Tour Route. The existing one-lane bridge allows for only one vehicle at a time, which leads to confusion and traffic back-ups during peak times. A two lane bridge will keep vehicles flowing more smoothly in both directions.

Currently, the road to the one-lane bridge from Hillhurst Road crosses heavily used railroad tracks. The new bridge will be constructed over the tracks, meaning fewer safety concerns and no getting stuck waiting for a long, slow-moving train.



#### BRIDGE UPGRADE

To provide better access to the River 'S' Unit, the Refuge is investing in the construction of a new two-lane concrete bridge that will rise above the railroad tracks.



#### DISRUPTION TO ACCESS

While we work on constructing the new bridge, the River 'S' Unit, including the Auto Tour Route, will be closed to the public, Monday - Friday. It will open on the weekends for public access.



#### EXTENDED ANNUAL PASS

We understand this construction project will disrupt your ability to visit the Refuge. Due to this, Refuge Annual Passes (\$15.00) sold during this time, will be valid for 18-months. The Cartry Unit located off Main Ave. remains open during construction. We welcome you to explore it.

### VISITOR IMPACT

**Once the project is underway in March, access to the Auto Tour Route will be limited to weekends only.** The reason for this is that the new bridge will be constructed next to the existing bridge. There is limited space for crews to operate construction equipment while interfacing with the railroad and public traffic.

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

If you volunteer on the River 'S' Unit, make sure to check in with your volunteer leads for guidance during this time. Stay tuned for project updates!

The Cartry Unit at 28908 NW Main Ave will remain open for hiking, walking, photography, birding and more, every day of the week - stop on by!

Please contact the Refuge Office at (360) 887-4106 during regular business hours (M-F, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM) for more information.

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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.

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## From the Contact Station

### Whether to Weather the Weather



There are so many reasons people visit Ridgefield NWR. The list is long: birding, wildlife watching, plant exploration, beautiful scenery, photography, painting, peace and quiet, walking, and cultural history. No matter how many reasons you have, someone can always add to the list. One of the things I very much enjoy at the contact station is watching the weather and its influence on the Refuge. Not everyone likes all the weather - some only visit certain times of the year. But I find weather fascinating no matter the season. The sweeping views on the Refuge enhance observation of the changes in the weather, whether it is seasonal or across an afternoon.

Rain is probably the most interesting. Often the clouds form and approach from the south or southwest. With our 360-window view...[Keep Reading...](#)

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## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events

### Changes on the Landscape

Over the next few years the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of RNWR, the City of Ridgefield, and other partners are engaged in multiple infrastructure and habitat improvement projects that will result in overall progress for the health of our Refuge. The Carty Unit will be undergoing some extensive changes as a result. Please keep your attention on social media, websites, and of course this newsletter for how *Refuge 20/20* projects will affect our Lifeways & Landscapes Programs. We hope that you will join us on our journey and look forward to the benefits of a deeply revitalized landscape.



### Docent and Education Volunteer Training

Dates have been set for this year's Plankhouse Docent and Education Program volunteer training! We promise that the second weekend in April will be full of interesting information and fun activities about the deep history of this landscape. Come join us!

**April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Saturday and Sunday**  
**10:00am-3:00pm\***

\*Please send an RSVP email with your full name and "Plankhouse Volunteer" in the subject line to [ridgefieldvolunteer@fws.gov](mailto:ridgefieldvolunteer@fws.gov).

### Spring Opening

The Cathlapotle Plankhouse opens for the season on May 4th and 5th, 2019! Stay tuned for more details on upcoming Second Sunday Series events, every second Sunday of the month through October.

### Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday Series

Fittingly the theme for the 2019



Second Sunday Series is *Resilience and Resurgence*. As we revitalize the Refuge oak woodlands, we turn an eye towards those that have shaped this landscape Since Time Immemorial. This year we will bring you five events as part of the Second Sunday Series, embracing topics such as Ancestors and Elders, *Oaks*ploration, and of course the annual community favorite, Traditional Technologies Day in August. As always, our series will highlight issues most closely related to the work we do here at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. The series will take place on the Second Sunday of the month, beginning in May and ending in September.



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

### Planting, Planning, and Patiently Waiting (Join us March 2nd - Keep reading for info!)

Habitat work on the Refuge in February focused primarily on creating Columbian white-tailed deer habitat. We started with clearing blackberries and downed debris from under mature Ash trees, followed by grass seeding and shrub/tree planting. This year we used six species of native shrubs and trees to create cover and browse. There is also the additional benefit of providing pollinators a longer blooming season, and birds with flora that produce large quantities of berries. If you are interested...[Keep Reading...](#)



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

Looking for ways to support habitat restoration on the Refuge? Check out our [Amazon Charity Wishlist](#) for tools and gear we need for our restoration program. Help us by making small purchases that make a big difference (FYI, you have to have an Amazon account to view the link).

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

## Species Spotlight

### Varied Thrush

*Ixoreus naevius*

With the late winter surprise snow, many noticed visits from Varied Thrush at their feeder and backyards. This is because while Varied Thrush breed in humid forests, they move into denser areas in the winter such as parks, gardens and backyards. The biggest guess as to why we see them so much more when there is snow is simply... [Keep Reading...](#)

Photo: Sherry Hagen



## Seeking Business Alliance Members

As a member of the Friends of the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Business Alliance**, you invest in one of our urban metropolitan area's most unique and diverse natural and cultural resources. Your partnership with the Friends helps ensure the future and success of this breathtaking natural resource. Invest in your community by becoming a part of our Business Alliance today!

**Friends offers three Business Alliance levels:**

- Business Friend – \$100**
- Business Ally – \$500**
- Business Sustainer – \$1,000**

All Business Alliance levels include:

- Your business logo, linked to your website, displayed on our website;
- Your business name and logo listed in each issue of our monthly e-newsletter;
- Advance notice of our activities and events;
- The knowledge that your commitment helps support Friends' programs and the Refuge for enjoyment by present and future generations!

As a *Business Ally*, we will feature your business in a dedicated welcome profile in our newsletter. As a *Business Sustainer*, you may choose to adopt a specific Friends project (e.g. a habitat project or cultural project) as a specific commitment to the organization and an opportunity for additional recognition. Contact us about current options!

[Click here to find out more!](#)



## Calling All Volunteers!

### Volunteer Opportunities:

The Friend's mission is to support, protect, and enhance the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and its wildlife habitat, and to broaden public awareness and participation in its environmental, cultural, and educational opportunities.

### 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

### Habitat Restoration

Volunteers get to see the most beautiful places on the Refuge while helping to ensure that native wildlife have food and shelter. Winter work is focused on planting and maintenance of these areas. Crews meet on most Wednesday and Saturday mornings. *For more information or to sign up to join a work party, email: Keith\_Rutz@fws.gov.*

### 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.

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.

**Stay tuned for Spring training dates to be announced. Or email [RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov](mailto:RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov) to be put on the update list.**

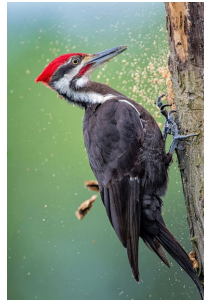
*Spring training dates are now set for April 13th and 14th, 10 to 3.*

*To get on the list for more information as it comes out, email: [RidgefieldEducation@fws.gov](mailto:RidgefieldEducation@fws.gov) with the subject line "New Plankhouse Volunteer".*

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

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## Birding Enthusiasts



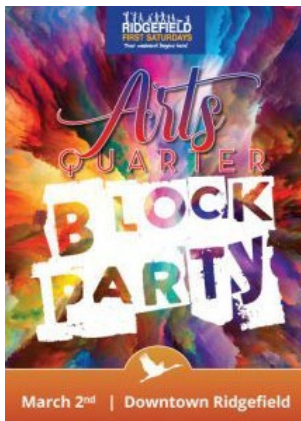
Check out what species are being seen on the Refuge [here](#).

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## Ridgefield First Saturday:

### Arts Quarter Block Party

March 2nd, 2019



**Encourage a lifetime of creativity!** Explore the downtown Arts Quarter, see performing arts, take an arts class, visit the kids arts & crafts activity center and help kick-off Ridgefield Youth Arts Month. **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.**

[Full Schedule Here](#)

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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? 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 a meal 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.



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)



## 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](http://smile.amazon.com) and shop as you usually would - 0.5% 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!

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.



## Sponsors

**Business Alliance Members:**



**In-kind Support:**



**BirdFest & Bluegrass:**



**Granting Organizations & Partners:**



Header Photo Credit: Sandra Michaelis, 2nd Place Plant Category, 2018 Refuge Photo Contest

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