

Please add [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) to your address book or safe senders list.

# The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

***The latest updates | April, 2019***



## Friends Board Seeking Committee Members

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is seeking community members to join our committees! If you are interested in helping out the Friends but don't have time to commit to being a board member, this is a great way to get involved. Maybe you have a talent you want to share, or want to help give the Friends a little extra support - whatever the reason, we are happy to have you join us!

### **We are looking for support in these committees:**

- Finance
- Grants
- Fundraising
- BirdFest Committee



Please email [alix@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:alix@ridgefieldfriends.org) with your interest!

## Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events

### **River 'S' and Trail Closures**

Stay up-to-date on all the projects going on this year

at the official [Refuge 20/20 website](http://Refuge20/20website), where all the projects at Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake NWR's are explained.

More info added all the time - check back for updates and more!



### **Currently:**

- The River 'S' Unit and Auto Tour Route (1071 S Hillhurst Rd.) are closed Monday-Friday for bridge construction, open Saturdays and Sundays until summer 2020.

- The Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail (28908 NW Main

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Improvements

2019 Schedule of Temporary Disruptions



### Auto Tour Bridge Replacement

**Where:** Ridgefield NWR River S Unit  
**When:** March 18, 2019 through July, 2020  
**What:** The bridge over Lake River to the Auto Tour Route will be closed Monday through Friday, re-opening on the weekends during construction of a new two-lane bridge.

### Planning a visit?

check ahead



**YOUR #1 INFO RESOURCE**  
[www.refuge2020.info](http://www.refuge2020.info)

**ALSO CHECK OUT**  
[facebook.com/Portland-VancouverNationalWildlifeRefuges](https://facebook.com/Portland-VancouverNationalWildlifeRefuges)  
[fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield](http://fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield)  
[fws.gov/refuge/Steigerwald\\_Lake](http://fws.gov/refuge/Steigerwald_Lake)

### Oak Woodland Restoration

**Where:** Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit  
**When:** March 18, 2019 until approx. June 2019  
**What:** The Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail, north of the Oak Overlook, will be closed during coniferous tree removal. The trail may remain closed until June for safety monitoring of falling debris.

### Main Street Sidewalk Extension

**Where:** Main Street near Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit  
**When:** March to October 2019  
**What:** Main Street will be reduced to one lane at Gee Creek starting March 2019. From July to August both lanes will be closed at Gee Creek and a detour will be in place to access the Refuge.

## REFUGE 2020

Learn more about these projects at [www.refuge2020.info](http://www.refuge2020.info)



Refuge 2020 is a collaborative effort of The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Our purpose is to keep you informed about the many wildlife habitat and public access improvements that will be completed or underway by the year 2020 at Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuges.

360-887-4106.

(click flyer to view larger or download)

## Bird Walks

### Birding at Ridgefield NWR

The following hikes are led by Ron Escano. They start at 8am at the respective trail head and last two to three hours. These hikes are free, however you are required to pay the Refuge \$3 daily entrance fee (free with Federal Lands Pass or Refuge Annual Pass). Please bring cash or applicable pass and allow yourself an extra 5 minutes to register at the self service kiosk. [Click here](#) for more information about passes and fees at Ridgefield NWR.

### Oaks to Wetlands Trail on the Carty Unit

(Please Note: Starting March 18, 2019 until approx. June 2019, the Oaks to Wetlands Trail north of the Oak Overlook (where the nature pave ends) will be closed to all public access due to the removal of coniferous trees for oak

Ave.), starting at the end of the paved section will be closed for our Oak Restoration Project until June 2019.

- The Main Street Extension project may impede traffic to the Carty Unit and the Refuge office (28908 NW Main Ave) - be aware that there may be wait times or single lane traffic at times.

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



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## BIRD WALKS

AT RIDGEFIELD NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

### UPCOMING DATES

The following hikes are led by Ron Escano & Ken Pitts. They start at 8 AM at the respective trail head and last two to three hours.

While these guided walks are free, the entrance fee to Ridgefield NWR of \$3.00 (adult) per day, does apply. Steigerwald Lake NWR has no day-use fee. Space is limited.

To Register, email [Mesha\\_Wood@fws.gov](mailto:Mesha_Wood@fws.gov) or call Ridgefield Office at 360-887-4106

**RIDGEFIELD NWR**  
**Oaks to Wetlands Trail**  
 (Garry Unit off Main)  
**Birding with Ron Escano:**  
 - May 11  
 - June 1

**Kiwa Trail**  
 (River 'S' Unit, off Hillhurst)  
**Birding with Ron Escano:**  
 - May 4  
 - May 25  
 - June 15

**STEIGERWALD LAKE NWR**  
**Gibbons Creek Wildlife Art Trail** (off SR-14)  
**Birding with Ron Escano:**  
 - March 23  
 - April 27  
 - May 18  
 - June 8

**Gibbons Creek Wildlife Art Trail** (off SR-14)  
**Birding with Ken Pitts:**  
 - March 30  
 - April 13  
 - May 11  
 - May 25

Open to the public by the George Easton Discovery and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to the event for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodations needs to Mesha Wood, [Mesha\\_Wood@fws.gov](mailto:Mesha_Wood@fws.gov), 360-887-4106, TTY 360-887-4103 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

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

restoration. Thus, these walks will only utilize the open portions of the Oaks to Wetlands trail.)

**Saturday, May 11**

**Saturday, June 1**

### **Kiwa Trail on the River 'S' Unit**

(Please Note: Starting March 18, 2019 until July 2020 the River 'S' Unit will be closed Monday - Fridays to all public access, including pedestrians, and re-opening on weekends, during construction of a new bridge. Weekend visitation may increase due to weekday closures.)

**Saturday, May 4**

**Saturday, May 25**

**Saturday, June 15**

### **Birding at Steigerwald Lake NWR**

The following hikes are led by Ron Escano. They start at 8am at the respective trail head and last two to three hours. There is no entrance fee at this site.

**Saturday, March 23**

**Saturday, April 27**

**Saturday, May 18**

**Saturday, June 8**

Additional Guided Bird Walks with Ken Pitts, at Steigerwald Lake NWR are listed below. These walks last two to three hours. There is no entrance fee at this site. These walks start at 8:00 AM at the Gibbons Creek Trail head off SR-14

**Saturday, March 30**

**Saturday, April 13**

**Saturday, May 11**

**Saturday, May 25**

These walks start at 7:00 AM at the Gibbons Creek Trail head off SR-14:

**Saturday, June 22**

**Saturday, July 13**

**Saturday, July 27**

**Saturday, Aug 10**

**Saturday, Aug 24**

[Click here to learn more about the Steigerwald Lake Refuge and trail.](#)

(click flyer to view larger or download)

## From the Contact Station

### Spring is full of changes

We always anticipate change as the seasons move though. Spring is a time of anticipation. While most ducks and swans move north to nest while we eagerly await the arrival of Cedar Waxwings, Wood Ducks in the fine breeding feathers, turtles on the stream logs, and the Turkey Vultures that float on the updrafts. This year, with the big projects on the Refuge, we will also have to alter our visits to the Refuge. For the Contact Station Volunteers, some of us will double up on weekends while others will move to other ways to help the Refuge. You may see some of us on the trails in our blue vests...[Keep Reading...](#)



-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer & Board Past President

## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events

### Plankhouse Docent & 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**

**10:00-3:00\***



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

(click to view larger or download)

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## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday Series



Download this flyer to plan your summer at the Cathlapotle Plankhouse, and make sure to come see us the opening weekend of the house, May 4th & 5th, 2019! The Cathlapotle Plankhouse will be open from 12-4pm both days.

(click to view larger or download)



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.

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## Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

### Slowly Settling into Spring

While the Refuge is closed for construction on the River 'S' Bridge and the Oak Restoration, we are focusing new recruitment efforts on other refuges in the complex, such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Work Parties at Steigerwald Lake NWR. We will have a 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Work Party at Ridgefield on April 27<sup>th</sup> - email early to sign up! Wednesday work parties will be limited due to...[Keep reading...](#)



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

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

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## Species Spotlight

### Common garter snake

### *Thamnophis sirtalis*



We are lucky here in the Pacific Northwest to have a wide variety of variations of garter snakes to see when out in the wild. Often called “gardener” snakes, garter snake is the common name for the nearly harmless, small to medium-sized snakes belonging to the genus ***Thamnophis*** found over most of North America. Common garter snakes come in a wide range of colors, with a pattern of yellow stripes on a black, brown or green background, and their average total length (including tail) is about 22 inches. Common garter snakes go

into **brumation**... [Keep Reading...](#)

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

## 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!](#)

[Learn more about volunteering at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge here](#)

## Birding Enthusiasts

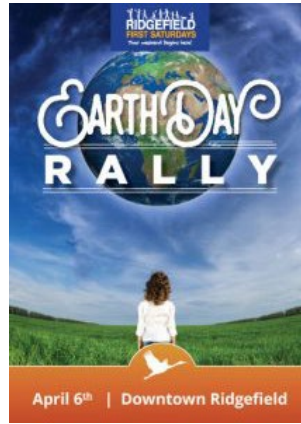
## Ridgefield First Saturday:

### Earth Day Rally

April 6, 2019



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



See exhibits and hands-on activities aimed at educating Ridgefield residents about protecting our environment and living green- and learning how to enjoy our natural resources.

**[Full Schedule Here](#)**

## 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 - .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.

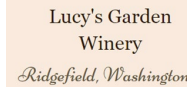


## Sponsors

### Business Alliance Members:



### In-kind Support:



### BirdFest & Bluegrass:



### Granting Organizations & Partners:





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

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