

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | June, 2019



Join us at Big Paddle!



The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge will have a booth in the Paddler's Village during Big Paddle, at the Port of Ridgefield on Saturday, June 1st. June 1st is also National Trails Day! Experience the water trails of Ridgefield NWR starting at the Port. There will be a self-guided waterfront walk starting at the Port, or take in the walking trails of both units of the Refuge. The Mayor has also declared the first Saturday in June as Ridgefield Trails Day! There will be the regular farmers market and more in town - check out the First Saturday info near the bottom of our newsletter for more info and a full schedule. [Click here for Refuge directions.](#)

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](#), where all the projects at Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake NWRs 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 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

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

ALSO CHECK OUT
facebook.com/Portland-VancouverNationalWildlifeRefuges
fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield
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.

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 360-887-4106.

REFUGE 2020

Learn more about these projects at 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.

(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 trailhead 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. (click flyer to view larger or download)

Oaks to Wetlands Trail on the Carty Unit
 Walks will only utilize the open portions of the Oaks to Wetlands Trail.
Saturday, June 1

Kiwa Trail on the River 'S' Unit
Saturday, June 15

Birding at Steigerwald Lake NWR
 Meet at the Gibbons Creek trailhead off SR-14 at the time listed. Walks last two to three hours. There is no entrance fee at Steigerwald.

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/capital per day, does apply. Steigerwald Lake NWR has no day-use fee. Space is limited.

To Register, email Mesha_Wood@fws.gov or call Ridgefield Office at 360-887-4106

RIDGEFIELD NWR
Oaks to Wetlands Trail
 (Carty 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 25
 - 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 forest by the Gorge Refuge Stewards and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this 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, 360-887-4106, TTY 360-887-4103 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield

Hikes led by Ron Escano, starting at 8:00 AM
Saturday, June 8

Hike led by Ken Pitts, starting at 7:00 AM
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.](#)

From the Contact Station

Trucks and Ducks on the Road

On May 4th we had an emergency Saturday closure of the River S. If you follow the www.Refuge2020.info webpage, you probably know the details, but suffice to say the concrete had to be poured for the bridge pilings and there was no waiting until Monday. We did our best to get the word out on social media as soon as we knew on Friday morning, but we still had some disappointed visitors. I had the morning duty of standing with the company flagman helping visitors while he staged truck traffic. It was fascinating watching how the cement truckers stopped to balance their loads before descending the road to the bridge. I learned a lot about the construction process while there. They had about 45 truck loads of cement delivered and poured that day. The process was choreographed throughout the day. We've had other similar days for the additional pilings, but everything else has happened during the Monday to Friday schedule. FWS staff have been inconvenienced a few times since... [Keep Reading...](#)



-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer & Board Past President

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events

Cathlapotle Plankhouse June Second Sunday - Oaksploration



June 9th, 2019, 12:00-4:00 PM
On the Carty Unit, Ridgefield NWR,
Refuge entrance fee applies

12:00 PM-4:00PM
Plankhouse Tours and Activities -
Docent or self-led Plankhouse tours
and family-friendly activities
throughout the day.

1:00 PM - Oak Woodlands
Nathan Reynolds: The importance and significance of oaks in our area,
and what our Oak Release Project is doing for the oaks on the Refuge.



1:30 PM - Abernathy Creek Restoration

Eli Asher: How restoring our oak woodlands will provide material for restoration projects that benefit salmon.

3:00 PM - Naturalist-led Walk-n-Talk

Ethnobotany walk on the Carty Lake Trail. Participants meet in front of the Plankhouse, be prepared for a 45-minute walk over moderately even terrain.

Cathlapotle Plankhouse: 28908 NW Main Ave, Ridgefield, WA 98642
(click flyer 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.

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

Moving into Summer Days

*Whan that aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of march hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan zephirus eek with his sweete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
Tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the ram his halve cours yronne,
And smale foweles maken melodye,
That slepen al the nyght with open ye -GC*

Spring has arrived on the Refuge, breathing new life into the fields and wetlands, cavities and burrows, and those that work to make the Refuge a place to visit or call home. Despite the literal roadblock called “bridge replacement” we are still welcoming wandering pilgrims on the weekends and the Carty Port Trail is now open for business.

For those who helped out with the Pierce Turtle Project, we have completed work on all the nesting areas and basking logs have now made it down to the water. There was a painted turtle that tried to mount one of the logs almost as soon as it hit the water so there was clearly a need for more floating real estate. We will need folks to help out with blackberry control and potentially watering the plantings over the summer so if you want to get back there or see it for the first time, email Elena or myself and we can let you know when those opportunities come up.

We have kept our volunteer work parties limited because of scheduled, and sometimes unscheduled, bridge closures but we should be ramping back up and taking new volunteers for the upcoming Ricefield bulrush season. Check out the bulrush flyer for dates and dust off the sunhat because there is no shade.

(click flyer to view larger or download)

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.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

HABITAT RESTORATION

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
(Please sign up for directions for where to meet)

HELP RESTORE HABITAT ON THE REFUGE

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge invites you to join us in the field this summer and help make a difference. We will be walking our wetlands in search of the Washington State Class A invasive plant, Ricefield Bulrush.

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

Parent/Teacher signatures required for those under 18.

Volunteer & Community Service Opportunities

—July—
Wednesdays: 10, 17, 24, 31
Saturdays: 6, 13, 20

—August—
Wednesdays: 7, 14, 21, 28
Saturdays: 3, 10, 17

Email to sign-up, or for more info:
Elena_tiaoco@fws.gov

Event sponsored by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Clatsop and Clatskanie, OR. Funding for the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is provided by voluntary contributions to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Please check us out on Facebook: [http://www.fws.gov/ridgethreat](#). For more information, visit [http://www.fws.gov/ridgethreat](#) or call 503-325-2800. Thank you for your support of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

Species Spotlight

Yellow-headed Blackbird
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

We are lucky to see Yellow-headed Blackbirds in and around our area, as they prefer the warmer, more desert sides of Oregon and Washington for their breeding grounds. They breed north into Prairie and mountain meadow wetlands of western and central U.S. and Canada, but a few enjoy what the Refuge has to offer and will breed here. They mostly winter in Mexico and the southern parts of NM, TX



and AZ.

Living up to their names, Yellow-headed Blackbirds have yellow heads and chests and black bodies. Males are brightly colored, with visible white patches on the front of their wings and black around their eyes. Females can be duller, with a small mottled amount of... [Keep Reading...](#)

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 with your interest!

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:

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

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.

To get on the list for more information as it comes out, email RidgefieldEducation@fws.gov with the subject line "New Plankhouse Volunteer"

Support the Friends

Help us inspire people to support the Refuge! Whether you help us out during

Station and driving the AutoTour.
Volunteers naturalists needed to walk trails and teach people about what they can see and enjoy at the Refuge this spring and summer!
If you are interested email
RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov to be put on the update list for a late spring training.

BirdFest & Bluegrass in October by giving directions or helping set up, or by providing outreach for what the Friends do, or joining the board or a committee, every little bit helps.

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



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

[Donate](#)

Ridgefield First Saturday:

Big Paddle and More

June 1, 2019



Ridgefield is celebrating National Trails Day with festivities at the waterfront and downtown and trolley rides in between. At the waterfront enjoy a canoe, kayak or paddleboard adventures in the morning and afternoon along with Paddler's Village, live music, a wine

and beer garden, a self-guided waterfront hike into the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, an obstacle course for all ages and lots more activities. For the first time in 2019, see a demo and scrimmage from the Portland Kayak Polo Team.

And, a huge water surprise will be unveiled!!

[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

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!

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:



Lucy's Garden
Winery
Ridgefield, Washington

BirdFest & Bluegrass:





Granting Organizations & Partners:



Header Photo Credit: Oca Hoeflein, 2nd Place Landscape Category, 2018 Refuge Photo Contest

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