

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 | September, 2019*



## Join us for GiveMore24! September 19th



### Ready to make a Difference?

We're counting down the days to **September 19th** and Give More 24! You have a chance to be a part of Southwest Washington's day of giving - an opportunity to unite our community around causes in which we truly believe and help nonprofit organizations connect to the larger community.

We need your help! Please join our campaign and help us reach our goal of \$5,000! We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

Get ready to give! Starting at 12AM on September 19, [visit here](#), and make a donation to us. You will have 24 hours to make your donation - all giving will end at 11:59PM on September 19th.

Find out more [HERE](#), and bookmark the page for September 19th!

## 2019 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest

Submit your favorite nature images taken within the boundaries of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge to the 13th Annual 2019 Photo Contest!

**Submit by: September 3, 2019**

### ADULT CATEGORY PRIZES:

1st & 2nd Place in each category

### Categories:

- **Birds** - Birds and waterfowl in their natural habitat
- **Wildlife** - Any wildlife other than birds - mammals, amphibians, fish, insects, reptiles, and invertebrates in their natural habitat
- **Plant Life** - Trees, grasses, flowers, fungi, lichen, and other flora in their natural habitat
- **Landscape & Structures** - The Refuge contains a mosaic of scenic views, including iconic structures such as the Cathlapotle Plankhouse

**YOUTH PRIZES:** 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place



[Find out more...](#)

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## BirdFest & Bluegrass Celebration Event!



Join us for the 20th Anniversary Birdfest Celebration and Fundraiser on October 4th, the evening before the BirdFest Festival at the Ilani Cowlitz Ballroom. There will be entertainment by Tony Starlight, singing hits about the beauty of birds and showing us his latest obsession with wildlife photography. There will be scrumptious food and drinks.

We have some fabulous items for our auction this year; plan on getting some early holiday shopping done! How about a team signed Timbers jersey? Or an opportunity to ride on the Clark County Sheriff's boat at the annual Columbia River Holiday Parade? Maybe a weekend in San Francisco would suit you? Every dollar

raised goes to the Friends mission of supporting the Refuge. ([click the postcard to view larger or download](#))

***Tickets are limited, get yours before they are gone [here!](#)***

To stay up to date on the Festival itself, [click here!](#)

Want to sponsor this landmark celebration or the Festival? [Contact us.](#)

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## Become a BirdFest & Bluegrass Vendor

Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of BirdFest & Bluegrass with us! Taking place October 5th, BirdFest is our local celebration of the return of the Sandhill Cranes to the Refuge. Events include Sandhill Crane tours, guided nature and bird walks, children's activities, Cathlapotle Plankhouse tours, naturalist workshops, and the Birder's Marketplace, which features artists who concentrate on wildlife and/or nature themes. BirdFest attracts 3,000 - 5,000 people annually, and we expect this year to be a record-breaker!



***Please note that this year the Birder's Marketplace will only be open for ONE DAY on Saturday, October 5th.***

The Marketplace will also have a new location! Join us in the brand new, centrally-located Ridgefield Administrative and Civic Center (RACC) gym (510 Pioneer St, Ridgefield, WA 98642). This location is right next door to where several of our biggest events of the festival are taking place. Or, join the Saturday Market and food vendors at Overlook Park!

[Find out more or apply today here!](#)

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## BirdFest & Bluegrass

**October 5th, 2019 w/some events Oct. 4th!**

The official schedule and links to purchase tickets coming soon! Keep an eye out in your inbox!

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Present

20th Anniversary

# BIRD FEST & BLUEGRASS

RIDGEFIELD WA

**OCT 5 2019**

SOME EVENTS & 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON OCT 4

RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE & DOWNTOWN RIDGEFIELD WA

Join Us for a Wonder-filled Festival Exploring Wildlife and Culture!

- Bluegrass & Folk Music** - Live performances on the Old Lady Theater
- Sawhill Crane Tours** - Access regularly open to the public / Reservations online
- Aviation Society** - Wild Birds of Prey
- Nature's Gift** - Birding, Observatory, Geology & more
- Cultural Activities** - at the Cuthbertson Play House
- Sea Grant Cruise** - Willow Cultural Society Partnership
- Hands-on Workshops** - Photography & Watercolor
- Historic Markings** - Historical Landmarks & Crafts for Sale
- Great Food & Refreshments** - at Overlook Park
- 20th Anniversary Celebration** - for the Friends of the Refuge on October 4th at 6pm

Pick up a commemorative button! Scan QR code for more information about buying a commemorative button - collect them all!

For more information and the Schedule of Events visit [www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org)

Thank you to our generous sponsors and supporters

(click to view larger or download)

## 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://Refuge20/20), 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:

-- **\*UPDATE\***: The Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail (28908 NW Main Ave.) starting at the end of the paved section is now open! Keep in mind this is a primitive trail that is not complete or permanent yet.

-- **\*UPDATE\***: The Main Street Extension project will impede traffic to the Carty Unit and the Refuge office (28908 NW Main Ave) starting July 5th, 2019. Access the unit from the freeway by using the second roundabout to go right onto N Royle, then turn left onto 289th, and follow that as it turns into 291st, then Main Ave. The Refuge will be on your right. Maps are available on the home page of our website.

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

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

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](https://fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield)

[fws.gov/refuge/Steigerwald\\_Lake](https://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.

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

**REFUGE 2020** Learn more about these projects at [www.refuge2020.info](http://www.refuge2020.info)

Refuge 20/20 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.



at 360-887-4106.

(click flyer to view larger or download)

## From the Contact Station

### Change is Coming



This is the time of year I usually write about migration. It is so exciting to see new birds as we roll into September. We've already had Red-shouldered Hawks show up. They seem a couple of weeks early this year. Humm, interesting. We haven't had a sighting of the Yellow-headed Blackbird for a few weeks. They have probably flocked up and moved out together. The Purple Martins, at least the ones using the gourds near the contact station, have not been heard in the last two weeks. We lament the leaving of favorites but eagerly await the arrival of the winter birds.

I spent some time recently going through Refuge reported birds for September via e-bird, the Cornell Laboratory listing site. Always a great site for information on what has been seen, or not. In the last five years, ...[Keep Reading...](#)

-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer & Board Past President  
Photo: Lyn Topinka

## Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events

### Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday - Ancestors on the Water

This is our last official Second Sunday of the year, so you don't want to miss it!

**Sept. 9th, 12:00 PM-4:00 PM**

Event free with \$3.00 per vehicle Refuge admission

**12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Plankhouse Tours and Activities**

Docent or self-led Plankhouse tours and family-friendly activities throughout the day.

**1:00 PM Ancestors & Elders**

Join us as Vice-Chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation, Sam Robinson, discusses Tribal Canoe Journey, connection with the Ancestors, life with a Living Plankhouse, and more.

**2:30 PM Naturalist-led Walk-n-Talk**

Join USFWS Deputy Project Leader Eric Anderson for a habitat walk on the newly re-opened Oaks to Wetlands 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**

Note: Main Ave is closed at Depot St. on the way to this unit, please follow detour signs to use Reiman or N Royle Rd. to access the unit. Detour Map found [here](#).

(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

### Falling into Fall



August on the Refuge was a month of removal. Our Ricefield bulrush pulling events on Wednesdays and Saturdays continued with much searching and some pulling. Numbers of plants are down this year, but we also found plants in areas they had not been seen in for a few years so the work continues. It can sometimes be tedious, or dare I say boring work, compared to the joy and satisfaction of blackberry removal, but it is a priority invasive and we still depend on our volunteers' participation so a big thanks to all those who have joined us in

this year's efforts.

We also had an early bloom and increased numbers of purple loosestrife this year. Thanks to the visitors who turned in...[keep reading...](#)

Make your own mark on habitat restoration efforts and [support us](#) today.

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

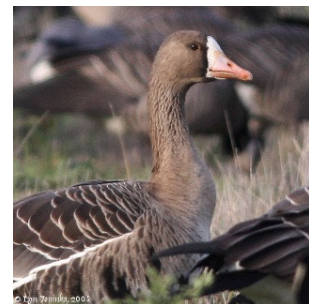
General Habitat Questions? Contact [Keith Rutz](#) or [contact us](#) for more information.

## Species Spotlight

### Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

The dusky and cackling geese at the Refuge get all the press, but have you ever seen or heard the Greater White-fronted Goose as it migrates through our area every fall?

From September through November, look for Greater White-fronted Geese foraging in agricultural fields or resting on lakes and ponds. This vocal species is often heard first by our Refuge Deputy Project Leader Eric Anderson, who has marked their arrival every fall since 1998, when he hears them over the Vancouver area as they arrive. He can always hear them, he says, because it's the time of year when the windows are still open from the day's heat, so it's easy to "be awakened by these early migrants and their high pitched squealing."... [Keep Reading...](#)



**Supporting the Ridgefield NWR**  
As a member of the Friends of our Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Business Alliance, you invest in one of our urban metropolitan areas' most unique and diverse natural and cultural resources.

Your annual Business Alliance Membership connects you with:

- 200,000+ visitors annually;
- 5,000 students participating in field trips and educational programs;
- 4,000 visitors to BirdFeed & Blingz;
- 3,000 attendees at Planthouse events;
- 1,200 monthly newsletter readers;
- 1,100 monthly website visits;
- and 300 community volunteers who provide more than 10,000 hours of work.

The Birding on Refuge study released in 2015 reports that an average of \$4.87 is returned to local communities for every dollar Congress provides in funding to use the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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!

Photograph Credits: Oregon Bird, Angie Vogel, Oca Horta, Dick Horta.

**Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 1002  
Ridgefield, WA 98642  
[www.friofridgetlands.org](http://www.friofridgetlands.org)

Join our Business Alliance!

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## 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!](#)

### Cathlapotle Plankhouse

The Cathlapotle Plankhouse draws thousands of visitors to the Refuge each year. Help share the legacy of the Indigenous people who have

## 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 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 summer!***

If you are interested email [RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov](mailto:RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov) to be put on the update list.

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](mailto:RidgefieldEducation@fws.gov) with the subject line "New Plankhouse Volunteer"***

#### Support the Friends

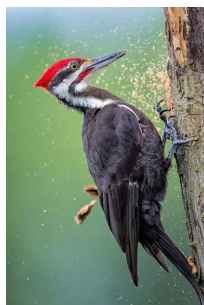
Help us inspire people to support the Refuge! Whether you help us out during BirdFest & Bluegrass in October by giving directions or helping set up, or by providing outreach for what the Friends do, or joining the board or a committee, every little bit helps.

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:

#### Multicultural Festival

September 7, 2019



The Second Annual Multicultural Festival will showcase Ridgefield's traditional heritage and rich cultural diversity and also introduce visitors to cultures from around the world through live music, dance performances, storytelling, cooking demonstrations, sporting events,

kids activities and a wide range of ethnic vendors. The Festival will include a variety of multi-cultural entertainment from Native American, Asian, Hispanic, Latin, Jazz and African performers. (The Friends will be there!)

[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:**



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

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