

Please add contact@ridgefieldfriends.org to your address book or safe senders list.

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | October, 2019



BirdFest & Bluegrass Celebration Event!

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

BIRD FEST & BLUEGRASS 20th Anniversary Celebration

Appearance by
Tony Starlight,
Entertainer and Bird Watcher
Extraordinaire

Heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks,
and **Silent & Live Auctions**

Ilani- Cowlitz Ballroom
1 COWLITZ WAY, RIDGEFIELD, WA
October 4th, 2019
5 PM - 7:30 PM
\$75.00 tickets include
Food + 2 Drink Tickets
Purchase at:
www.RidgefieldFriends.org

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.](#)

BirdFest & Bluegrass

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

The official schedule (including a downloadable PDF) and links to purchase tickets for registration-required events can be [found here!](#)

20th Anniversary Celebration of BirdFest
Friday 5:00-7:30 @ Hani Casino

Join the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge for our BirdFest and Steigerwald Openings Ceremony at Hani Casino. We'll have live music, a great variety of birds at our auction, and entertainment by Tony Donaghy. We look forward to having you at the festival with us! [Click here to view more!](http://www.birdfestandopenings.com)

Bring On the Music!
 Enjoy live music at the Hani Casino and at various locations in downtown Ridgefield.

Head to the Old Liberty Theater for BirdFest!
 Save the date! Music from the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge will be performed between noon and 3:00pm. Tickets are \$10 and available for you at the Old Liberty Theater. Save the date! Tickets are available at the Old Liberty Theater and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. \$10 tickets are available for you at the Old Liberty Theater. Save the date!

Planner's Festival 1 Saturday 12:00pm @ Various Locations Downtown
 Enjoy live music, food, and shopping at various locations in downtown Ridgefield. We look forward to having you at the festival with us! [Click here to view more!](http://www.birdfestandopenings.com)



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Event Locations

Ridgefield, WA is located 25 minutes south of Portland and just 15 minutes from Vancouver.

Map Labels: Carty Unit, Downtown Ridgefield, Steigerwald Lake, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Old Liberty Theater, Hani Casino, BNSF Railway, and various local businesses.

Carty Unit & Planthouse

River 'S' & Steigerwald

Downtown Ridgefield

Sandhill Crane Tours

Man Carty (Lake Trail) Entrance

Planner's Festival 1

Planner's Festival 2

Planner's Festival 3

Planner's Festival 4

Planner's Festival 5

Planner's Festival 6

Planner's Festival 7

Planner's Festival 8

Planner's Festival 9

Planner's Festival 10

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Planner's Festival 50

(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://www.refuge2020.com), 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 Main Street Extension project will continue to impede traffic to the Carty Unit and the Refuge office (28908 NW Main Ave) through October 5th and BirdFest. 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 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.

- 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

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.

(click flyer to view larger or download)

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.

From the Contact Station

Beaver, Nutria or Muskrat?



Among the many mammals we have on the refuge, most often seen are the nutria who can be confused with our beaver and the common muskrat. All three of these mammals are part of the order Rodentia, which comprises about 40% of all mammals around the world. Rodentia are characterized by a single pair of continuously growing incisors in each of the upper and lower jaws. That is one of the features you can clearly see as you observe these animals in the refuge.

Beavers are in their own family, Castoridae, while Nutria and Muskrat are, ...Keep Reading...

-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer & Board Past President

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Wrapping Up

As the Plankhouse season comes to a close, we just wanted to remind you all that the House will still be open from noon to 4:00 pm, every Saturday and Sunday through the second weekend of October!

You can also experience all the great activities and tours that you would normally find on a Second Sunday during BirdFest &



Bluegrass October 5th! There will be Family Grove activities and crafts, Partner Booths, docents, hikes, and so much more - all happening on the Carty Unit during BirdFest & Bluegrass 2019! Make sure to stop by!

Cathlapotle Plankhouse, 28908 NW Main Ave, Ridgefield, WA 98642

Note: Main Ave will remain closed at Depot St. through BirdFest weekend. 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](#). Or, during BirdFest & Bluegrass, October 5th, park at the Port and walk to the Carty Unit, or catch the trolley into town, up to Union Ridge, and the RACC Birders Marketplace!



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

Plant, maintain, protect

HABITAT RESTORATION
Wednesday Work Parties
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
(Meeting location: Carty Unit 28908 N Main Ave., lower parking lot next to the bathrooms.)
HELP RESTORE HABITAT ON THE REFUGE
You are invited to make a difference on your local wildlife refuge! Join us to protect the rebuild native habitat on the refuge through invasive plant removal and planting preparation. Volunteering will also give you the opportunity to remove barbed wire fencing to prevent wildlife injury and death.
We provide snacks and beverages. All work days are rain or shine. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Gloves and eye protection are provided. Arrive early to sign paperwork.
Parent/Guardian signature required for those under 18.
Volunteer & Community Service Opportunities
—October—
Wednesdays: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
—November—
Wednesdays: 6, 13, 20, 27
Email to sign-up, or for more info:
Elena_tinoco@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

HABITAT RESTORATION
Thursday Work Parties
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
(Meeting location: Carty Unit 28908 N Main Ave., lower parking lot next to the bathrooms.)
HELP RESTORE HABITAT ON THE REFUGE
You are invited to help create a beautiful future for the new Oaks-to-Wetlands trail area. Between the months of March and July the "Oak Release" project removed 34 acres of fir trees on the Refuge to conserve white oak habitat. Join us this fall to take part in an exciting mission to restore the native habitat through blackberry removal and native seed planting.
We provide snacks, coffee, and water. All work days are rain or shine. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Gloves and eye protection are provided. Arrive early to sign paperwork.
Parent/Guardian signature required for those under 18.
Volunteer & Community Service Opportunities
—October—
Thursdays: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
—November—
Thursdays: 7, 14, 21, 28
Email to sign-up, or for more info:
Elena_tinoco@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Habitat Restoration
9 am - 12:30 pm
Meeting location at Carty, lower parking lot next to the bathrooms. Contact elena_tinoco@fws.gov

Wednesdays:

October: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

November: 6, 13, 20, 27

You are invited to make a difference on your local wildlife refuge! Join us to protect and rebuild native habitat on the Refuge through invasive plant removal and planting

preparation. Volunteering will also give you the opportunity to remove barbed wire fencing to prevent wildlife injury and death.

Thursdays:

October: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

November: 7, 14, 21, 28

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For all work days: We provide snacks, coffee, and water. All work days are rain or shine. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Gloves and eye protection are provided. Arrive early to sign paperwork. (click flyers to view larger or download)

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

Sandhill Crane

Antigone canadensis

The first clue of the return of these huge birds is their sound. The Sandhill Crane's call is a loud, rolling, trumpeting sound whose unique tone is a product of anatomy: Sandhill Cranes have long tracheas (windpipes) that coil into the sternum and help the sound develop a lower pitch and harmonics that add richness.

Very tall, long necked, and thin legged- from afar they can be mistaken for Great Blue Herons, but upon closer inspection you can quickly notice their light grey coloring, rust-colored streaks... [Keep Reading about our Bird of the Year on the BirdFest & Bluegrass page!](#)



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 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 to be put on the update list.

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 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](#)

Ridgefield First Saturday:
BirdFest & Bluegrass

Birding Enthusiasts



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

[Donate](#)

October 5, 2019



Help celebrate the 20th Anniversary of BirdFest! Enjoy the sights and sounds of fall migration and bluegrass music throughout Ridgefield! A festival that spans downtown Ridgefield and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge with a trolley to transport you in between.

[Limited 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:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners:





Header Photo Credit: Gary Grossman, 1st Place Landscape Category, 2018 Refuge Photo Contest

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[Remove my name from all future mass email communications.](#)

Address postal inquiries to:
Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
PO BOX 1022
Ridgefield, WA 98642