

CORRECTION: We are resending this issue of our E-Newsletter due to incorrect dates published in the Bird Walk section

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | November, 2019



BirdFest & Bluegrass Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who attended the 20th Anniversary of BirdFest & Bluegrass. We had an excellent festival with crane tours, bird walks, spotting scopes, a watercolor workshop, a live bird show from Portland Audubon, a presentation about crows, great bluegrass music at Old Liberty Theater and around town, a salmon bake, and so much more. Thank you to all who contributed time and effort to putting on the festival! A special thanks to our sponsors: Columbia Credit Union, Port of Ridgefield, City of Ridgefield, Backyard Bird Shop, Corwin Beverages, and Ilani!

Another big thank you to everyone who attended our 20th Anniversary Celebration at Ilani the night before BirdFest, and to our sponsors who made the event possible - BNSF, Ilani, NW Natural, and all those who donated items for our auctions. It was a joyful evening reminiscing about the last 20 years! Thank you to Tony Starlight for the bird-centric entertainment, and to Ilani for being spectacular hosts. We are very grateful to all those who generously contributed to the Friends that evening - your support goes a long way towards maintaining the quality of our cultural, education, and habitat programs on the Refuge!



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:

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.

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.

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

-- ****UPDATE:**** The River 'S' Unit and Auto Tour Route (1071 S Hillhurst Rd.) Additional Temp Closure**

The River 'S' Unit/AutoTour of the Refuge will be closed to ALL PUBLIC ACCESS Sunday - Friday, through November 2019 (except Nov 10th) due to the inability to provide safe access across the Lake River bridge. A professional flagger will be provided to assist with crossing on Saturdays only, except for Sunday, November 10th, when the unit will be open in honor of Veteran's Day. We apologize for this construction closure and look forward to opening fully on weekends in December.

-- 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.

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

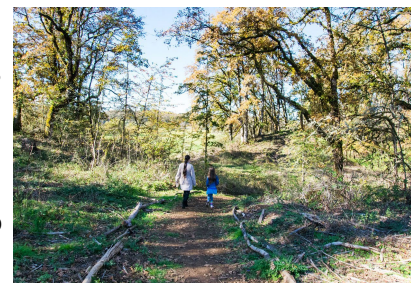
Thank you for visiting the Refuge and supporting conservation. If you have any questions regarding activities and regulations on the Refuge, call the office Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 3:30 pm at 360-887-4106.

Carty Unit Bird Walks

We have a new bird walk leader!

Robert has been an avid birdwatcher for many years. Last year he moved from Michigan where he led bird walks as the President of the Holland Audubon Club. At present he volunteers for Ridgefield NWR greeting people on the auto tour route and does bird surveys for the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology.

Join Robert on the Oaks to Wetlands trail at the Carty Unit on the following Saturdays. The walk will start at 8 am and last 2 to 3 hours depending on participant interest. An optional extension of the tour will go to the Port of Ridgefield to look at birds on Carty Lake from the Port property.



Space is limited to 15 participants. Please sign up in advance. Groups signing up at once are limited to 4 people to ensure space is left for others. (Exceptions can be made, please email or call with questions.) Contact [Josie Finley](mailto:Josie.Finley@fws.gov), or call 360-887-4106 (find out more [here](#))

Second Saturdays: 8 AM
November 9th

December 14th
January 11th

Bird walks are free but subject to the \$3 entrance fee. [To see valid passes, click here.](#) Please give yourself an extra 10 minutes to pay your fee or register your pass number when you arrive.

From the Contact Station

Favorite Spots



Many visitors enjoy a favorite spot somewhere on the refuge. It might be a place where you regularly see a favorite animal or where a big oak gently dominates the landscape, or it might be a place where you can quietly contemplate what floats through your mind while birds sing in the background. Wherever it is, you might sigh, take a deep breath and wonder at the beauty. One of my places is along the walk to the blind overlooking Rest Lake. A lake, by the way, that I am impatiently waiting to reappear with its winter swans now. Our First-Place photo contest winner for plants, Sachi Deshpande, captured a fall photo of this area

beautifully...[Keep Reading...](#)

-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer & Board Past President

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Seasonal Changes

Now that the Cathlapotle Plankhouse has closed for the season, you can keep an eye out for Carty Unit cultural volunteers tending to the house and the surrounding native plants. If you are interested in joining us in tending the landscape around the Plankhouse, contact Cultural & Community Education Director, Juliet McGraw, at the volunteer email, CathlapotlePlankhouse@RidgefieldFriends.org to sign up!



Thank you to everyone who helped out and participated in the Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday Series this year. Next year's Series theme will be Indigenous Research, Scholarship, and Leadership. Please contact Juliet directly at Juliet_McGraw@fws.gov.

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

Note: Main Ave will remain closed at Depot St. On the way to the Carty Unit, please follow detour signs to use Reiman or N Royle Rd. Detour Map found [here](#).



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

Winter Restoration Brings May Flowers

Habitat volunteers in October spent most Wednesdays and Thursdays on the Carty Unit helping to clear logging debris, seeding native grasses, and clearing invasive plant species released along with the Oaks by the increased light energy....[Keep Reading...](#)

Habitat Restoration
9 am - 12:30 pm Wednesdays
& Thursdays
Contact

HABITAT RESTORATION
 Wednesday Work Parties
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
 (Meeting location: Carly Unit 2808 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 water 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 provided. Arrive early to sign paperwork. Parent/Guardian signatures 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: Carly Unit 2808 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 signatures 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

elena_tinoco@fws.gov

(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

Ruby-Crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*

Some of you may have noticed this sometimes-brightly colored visitor showing up in your yards and local areas this time of year. Ruby-crowned Kinglets are a common backyard bird in the Pacific Northwest, and can be found year-round, but we do get an influx of seasonal migrants during their non-breeding season, usually from December to March. Another reason we notice them more as we descend into winter is ... [Keep Reading...](#)



Photo: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren

Supporting the Ridgefield WRR

As a member of the Friends of the 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 commits you with:

- 200,000+ visitors annually
- 5,000 students participating in field trips and educational programs
- 4,000 visitors to BirdFeed & Blingees
- 5,000 attendees at Parkhouse events
- 1,200 monthly newsletter readers
- 1,500 monthly website visits
- 250 community volunteers who provide more than 10,000 hours of work

The Ridgefield Nature Study retained in 2013 reports that an average of \$487 is returned to local communities for every dollar donated (available in funding to run 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!

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
 P.O. Box 1002
 Ridgefield, WA 97142
www.fridgetofriends.org

Join our Business Alliance!

2014 Recycled Post-Consumer Cardboard, Printed Chlorine Free and PVC content.

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

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"

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.

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:

Roaring 20's with Wine
November 2, 2019



A Roaring 20's themed wine tasting and celebration with live music, a collection of wines from Ridgefield wineries, dance lessons, art activities and more! 20's themed costumes are welcome and highly encouraged. This is a 21+ event, with an admission charge.

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

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