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The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | January, 2020



January Member & Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge January Member Brunch will be Saturday, January 25th, 2020! This annual event is to celebrate and honor our members and volunteers for all their hard work, support, and dedication all year long.

You're invited to join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge for their annual Member & Volunteer Appreciation Brunch and Meeting. Come ready for brunch and mimosas! There

will be board elections, year-in-review, and more.

JANUARY 25, 2020, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
RIDGEFIELD OUTDOOR RECREATION COMPLEX COMMUNITY ROOM
3101 S HILLHURST RD, RIDGEFIELD, WA 98642

RSVP by January 20th by filling out the form at: www.ridgefieldfriends.org

Not a current member or need to renew? There is still time, [join today!](#)
(click the invite to view larger or to download it)

Get Your 2020 Photo Contest Calendars and More!

View the 2019 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest Winners in this stunning collection.

Just \$18 - 8.5x11 size, with a bonus contest photo!

Highlights important Refuge dates, Fee Free days, as well as seasonal habitat reminders and events. Funds support Habitat Restoration, Environmental & Cultural Education, and other Refuge programs and events.

Buy them online here!

XL size for \$22.00, and choice of binding also available online.

Buy them in-store at select local locations, including:
Seasons Coffee, Tea & Remedies in the Old Liberty Theater
and **Ridgefield Hardware!**





Or, check out our other great items, like mugs, tote bags and sweatshirts with the Photo Contest winners, as well as the Chinookan Steller's Jay art by Chinook Artist, Greg Robinson, back after a long wait!

From the Refuge

What a year 2019 has been!



The New Year is a time for hope, renewal, and setting intentions for what we want to see in the coming year. I asked Service and Friends staff from various programs outside of my own visitor-centered lens (management, administration, habitat, maintenance) what their hopes are for the coming year. The most common answer was focused around construction projects. With the upcoming completion of two major projects, the River 'S' Bridge and the Main Street sidewalk, we will not only have less to juggle daily, but the increased access to

the Refuge will strengthen our community.

Safer and more convenient ways to visit mean that more people get to enjoy the Refuge in a way that is meaningful to them. For some, that is giving back through volunteering, either on our trails, in the visitor contact station, or soon in a new administrative building. This new building project, that will start this summer, will create better opportunities for us to connect with our users. Having a space for staff, partners, and volunteers to work more comfortably and efficiently will be much more welcoming to people and create opportunities for better interaction with the public. We look forward to having space for those volunteers who enjoy working behind the scenes and helping us communicate with our visitors.

So keep tuned in everyone! 2020 will no doubt give you a lot of opportunities to give back to your community in ways that suit you best. We hope to either be part of that, or be the place you come to relax and reflect on your success.

- Josie Finley, Visitor Services Manager Ridgefield NWR

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:

-- ****UPDATE:**** The River 'S' Unit and Auto Tour Route (1071 S Hillhurst Rd.) will be closed to ALL PUBLIC ACCESS Monday - Friday, through February 2019 in order to complete this construction project. A crane will be used to remove the old

bridge, which will need to sit on the new bridge to complete the work. Once the old bridge is removed, final cleanup can begin and we will return to normal visiting hours- a whole 5 months ahead of schedule! (Open January 1st for New Years Day!)

-- The Main Street Extension project should be wrapping up at the end of December. Check our websites for updates through the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020. Until then, 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.

From the Contact Station

Where are the birds?



- Photo: Susan Setterberg

As I write January's *From the Contact Station* column in mid-December, I am collecting the Christmas Bird Count information from the teams that completed the count on December 15th. Although it is too early to get a complete picture, many of the count teams are suggesting that the number of birds seems low even though the weather was Birder friendly. That connects with the questions that visitors have ...[Keep Reading...](#)

- Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events

Cathlapotle Plankhouse in the Winter

Once again we would like to thank the Clark County Historical Preservation Commission for the grant award that allowed us to give our Collections some much needed care and attention.

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.

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.



We have conducted a full inventory of all cultural and interpretive items

associated with the Cathlapotle Plankhouse and *Lifeways and Landscapes* Program. One of the highlights of this project has been the ability to incorporate the Indigenous curation lens to objects in the Plankhouse, which will better inform our interpretation moving forward. Due to the nature of our education program, our interpretive items and materials receive a lot of handling by the public for much of the year, and preventative conservation is now a top priority. Our fears about our abilities to more actively address and combat Agents of Deterioration have been lessened through work with Greg Robinson with the Chinook Indian Nation, and Greg Archuleta with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.



Greg Robinson was the Project Forman for the building of the Cathlapotle Plankhouse and this year we celebrate 15 years of the House being open! Currently we are featuring Greg Robinson's art on items in the Friends Merch Shop.

- Juliet McGraw, Community & Cultural Education Director, Friends of RWNR

[Stop by the Friends merch shop here](#) and grab a tshirt or sweatshirt, mug or tote bag, all featuring Greg Robinson's Chinookan Stellers Jay art.

Save the Date for 2020's Second Sunday Events! **Indigenous Scholarship, Research, and Leadership** is the theme for the 2020 Second Sunday Series. Every Second Sunday event will feature talks and panels focused on the theme, as well as kids crafts and activities, docent and self-led Plankhouse tours, and more. As always, our series will highlight issues most closely related to the work we do here at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

2020 SEASON I 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

- **May 2-3** - Opening Weekend
- **May 10** - Indigenous Scholarship, Research, and Leadership
- **June 14** - Indigenizing Curatorial Practices
- **July 12** - Native Cosmologies, TEK, and Climate Change
- **August 9** - Traditional Technologies
- **Sept. 13** - Elders, Children, and Land Stewardship
- **Oct. 3-4** - BirdFest / Closing Weekend

The Plankhouse is also open every Saturday & Sunday, May 2nd- October 4th, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Stay tuned for more specific information about each date, including the speaker, and more, coming throughout the year!

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

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

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

SECOND SUNDAYS
At the Cathlapotle Plankhouse on the Refuge

2020 SEASON I 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
For more information visit: www.RidgefieldFriends.org

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Event hosted by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners, the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. 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 Juliet McGraw at Juliet_McGraw@fws.gov, 360-524-5910. TTY: 360-877-8229 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield



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

Tis the season to be grateful... Here is a thank you to my volunteers.



2019 is coming to an end and I have so much gratitude for the amazing people that have helped to make a difference over the year. While being in the position of Habitat Technician I have been able to work closely with my volunteers. From what I have seen, this close knit group has a great amount of pride in what they do. They come together and care for each other like family. Work parties generally consist of conversations to catch up with each other's lives since the previous week. I always hear someone ask another, "how are the pugs doing" - or my favorite, "is it break time yet???" Some of these people have been volunteering together for years!

One volunteer has been helping at the refuge for over 10 years, and he always shows up to a work party even if it is just the two of us. I receive so much support and kindness from these people, and I wanted to let others know how wonderful they are.

A good chunk of my volunteers are from the Ridgefield community, and some travel all the way from Portland! It does not matter what the weather is doing, or what the project will be, people will still come with a smile on their face. I encourage you to come out and experience what it is like to volunteer and help restore the native habitat. Projects like invasive removal and tree planting do not always provide that instant gratification of a job well done, but I have come to understand the beauty of working to create a better future. Volunteers work hard and quietly to restore a safe place for our woodland critters and to create a healthy habitat.

This month the habitat volunteers came out on Wednesdays and Thursdays to help clean up the refuge by removing invasive plant species such as himalayan blackberry, common mullein, and shiny geranium. We take out these plants because of their aggressive growth rates that outcompete the native plants. Other projects have included native plantings and barbed wire removal. This month we planted indian plum, red elderberry, pacific ninebark, Oregon ash, snowberry, and red osier dogwood! These plants are important for a healthy understory for birds, insects, and smaller animals.



Going into January we will continue to have work parties every Wednesday (not on the 1st).

We will also have one Saturday work party on the 11th. Work party times are 9:00 am - 12:30 pm.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2020.

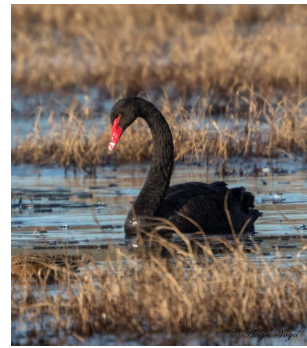
-Elena Tinoco, Habitat Restoration Technician

Contact elena_tinoco@fws.gov for more info and to sign up to volunteer.

Species Spotlight

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Some of you may have been lucky enough to spot an unusual visitor to our Refuge, a Black Swan. The Black Swan featured in these photos has been spotted in both November and December of this year, and in 2018. Black Swans are native to Australia, where their discovery rocked the minds of ornithologists from Europe at the time, who thought all swans were white.



This particular swan has been identified as one that... Keep Reading...

-Samantha Zeiner, Administrative Coordinator
Photo: Angie Vogel

Thank You Members, Donors & Sponsors!

Members and Donors 2019

New Business Member Dec 18: Plas Newydd Farm

Elizabeth Adcock
Larry Alexander
Milada Allen
Merrie J. Anderson
Jack & Jeanne Androvich
Libby Adcock & Jack Bernhardsen
Bill & Kathy Baumann
Trine Beach
Karen & Douglas Beall
Kristine Becker
Eugene Beireis
Eva Bernhard
Cynthia Bland
Lyle & Robin Bradford
Barry Brenner
Denetta Brown
Virginia Butler
Laura Butterfield
Kara Caselas
Nancy Chesney-Smith
Jane Chinn
Jim & Kathleen Clapp
M Kathleen Condon
Brian Connelly
Dennis & Pat Cox
Carol Silva & Mary Cox
Barbara Craft
David Cummings
Sandra Day
Megan Dudley
John Swain & Christine Eastman
Patricia Eastman
Tanna & Lynn Engdahl
Family of Christ Lutheran Church
Fire & Ice Concessions
Allison Ford
Steve Fountain
Freya Fisher
Robert Flores
Eric Foster
Anita Freyman-Danielsen



Elizabeth Oedell

Pam & Jeff Osborne
Joe & Susie Palena
Kent Picknell
David Phelps
James Potter
Bernadette Price
Rolf Priebe
Edward Rankin
Steve Rauske
Kay Richardson
Ridgefield Hardware- Scott & Cathy Hughes
Mike Riley
Sam & Mildred Robinson
Russell & Claudia Roseberry
Jim & Darcy Rourk
Jim & Paquita Rupp
Cory Samia
Mel Sanchez
Virginia Scott
Susan Setterberg
Carin Shienberg
Michele Schindler
Maureen Schuette
Kathleen Sheridan
Lyn Sherman
Donald & Alison Slymen
Nancy C. Smith
Eileen Smith
Drew Smith-Sahnow
Jill Spencer
Chris Spurgin

Gardner School of Arts & Sciences
Cheri Gavin
Susan Gelentere
Susan Gerow
Erinne Goodell
Len Gordon
Pay Gorman
Michael Greenstreet
Mary Grout
David Gurock
Jan Haig
Jackie Hatland
Kendrick Heath
Scott Hewitt
Anna Hill
Randy Hill
David Hills
Chuck Houghten
Terry Hurd
Cynthia Hutchison
Edith Kearney & Dede & Ken Heath
Ken Heath - for Alix Danielsen
Jane Jacobsen
Ellen Jones
Dennis Johnson
Susan Kelly
E Kipp
Darwin Koistinen
Sue Vanlaanen & Mike Koon
Lucinda Krantz
Ted Labbe
Patricia Larson
Jim & Gloria Lawrence
Denise Lewis
Paul Lewis
Debra Lippoldt
Michelle Llaguno
Michelle Maani
Donna & Joseph MacKenzie
Christine Maitland
Irwin Maloff
Melanie Marconi
Marie Marshall
Jim Martin
John Marzilli - for Susan Setterberg
Eugene McCann
Twila & Mark McCombs
Juliet McGraw
Ken & Sandra Miller
Kate & Christopher Mueller-Wille
Curt & Debby Mohler
Gwendolyn Morgan

Melissa Meacham Stewart
Jane Stutfield
Maraget Thiele
Sherrie Tinoco
Aschlie Town
Karen Turner
Robert Vanderkamp
Dennis P. Weaver
Andrea Weinberg
Den Mark Wichar
Susan Wickersham
Kevin & Christine Witte
Jennifer Wolcott
Karen Wood
Casey Wyckoff
Tom & Lisa Zeiner
Zhihui Zhang

In Memory of Sydney Reisbeck:
Denetta & Norwood Brown

In Memory of Anna Frost:
Joan Hyland

In honor of Linda Dzurisin:
Anonymous
Roger Patrick Denlinger
Lisa Faust
Richard & Pamela Herner
Vicky Kleinman
Sarah Ogburn

BirdFest & Bluegrass Sponsors:
Backyard Bird Shop- Vancouver
City of Ridgefield
Columbia Credit Union- Ridgefield
Corwin
Ilani
Port of Ridgefield

Fundraiser sponsors:
BNSF
Ilani
NW Natural

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in GiveMore24!, our 20th Anniversary Celebration Fundraiser, and #GivingTuesday!

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!](#)

Board Seeking New Board Members

Or, Join a Committee

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is a non-profit dedicated to promoting educational and cultural programs of the Ridgefield NWR, and protecting and enhancing its wildlife habitat. We are currently seeking candidates to serve on our board of directors. We are recruiting candidates with diverse backgrounds and skills for several open board positions, in addition to candidates interested in serving on a committee (board membership not required).



Find out more about the Friends, and [contact us here!](#)

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.

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

Ridgefield First Saturday:

Hometown Celebration
January 4, 2020

Grab a blanket and pillow and get comfortable enjoying



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

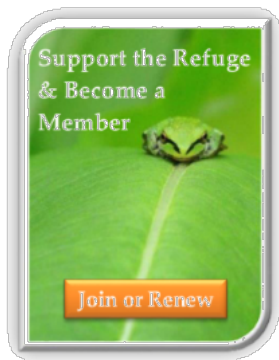


our family friendly movie marathon and waffle bar! Showtimes at 10AM and Noon. Follow Ridgefield First Saturdays on Facebook for movie title announcement. Play board games, enjoy munchies, and participate in a

Pajama Contest!

[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

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.



Don't Forget to Support While You Shop This Holiday Season!



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.



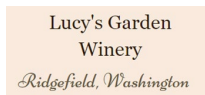
Giving Assistant makes it easy to donate to Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge! Simply shop online, earn cash back, and donate as much as 30% of your purchase price - Giving Assistant facilitates the whole process. Now, you can help change the world for free while saving money at over 3,000 popular online retailers like Home Depot, ULTA, and Macy's! Start HERE! Thanks for being an EcoShopper and helping the Refuge!

Sponsors

Business Alliance Members:



In-kind Support:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners:



Header Photo Credit: Raul Moreno, 2nd Place 2017 Refuge Photo Contest

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Address postal inquiries to:

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