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The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | January, 2022



From the Friends

Why I'm here

As a newer board member of the Friends organization, I'm truly amazed at the amount of community support for our "Friends" group - from the many hours of volunteer work at all the Columbia basin refuge properties to the funding support from individuals, businesses, and foundations. I would hope everyone in the community would take the time to visit (often) the Ridgefield NWR and - to the extent possible - help with the volunteer efforts to maintain and enhance the refuge itself.

A special call-out to the City of Ridgefield for contributing time and effort to the refuge system (including a board member!), Fish & Wildlife Service staff, and local businesses that support in various ways the work of The Friends.

My involvement with the refuge and the Friends began with the volunteer opportunities to help maintain and enhance this wonderful, and ancient property that is truly magical, whether you walk the trails, drive the car loop, or simply enjoy the wildlife in, and adjacent to, the NWR itself. Never

have I even seen as many Bald Eagles, the beautiful hawks, and the migratory ducks, geese, and magnificent Sandhill Cranes that stop in the refuge. We are fortunate enough to be able to hear the Sandhill Cranes “talking” to each other as they settle into the evening from our home in Ridgefield - what a blessing!

Please join us if you can, and enjoy the Refuge whenever you can. Nothing could be so pleasant in this busy season of the year more than the peace and quiet afforded by Ridgefield NWR!

Regards -Jim Nindel-Edwards, Board Member

[Contact the board](#)

image: Jim loads gear into a truck bed during a fence removal

Ridgefield Refuge Complex

Friends and Stewards,

I want to wish you and yours very happy and warm holidays. I am humbled every time we meet, by the dedication, heart, expertise, and passion that our Friends and Stewards invest in the Refuge Complex. Truly, my appreciation and thanks go beyond words. Every step you take with us moves the conservation and community needle more than we could ever do on our own. I am very grateful for you, I appreciate you, and I look forward to celebrating a new year of successes and collaboration in the new year.

On behalf of myself and your Ridgefield NWRC family, happy holidays!

-Juliette Fernandez, RNWR Complex Manager

[Click the photo, or this link here](#), for a report that showcases a glimpse into all you support and do! Here's to a "wild" but successful 2021 and a brighter 2022...

-Mesha Wood, Ridgefield Refuge Complex Park Ranger



Many Thanks

Thank you so much to all of our 2021 donors, including, but not limited to:
(as of 12/29/2021 - click to view PDF)

Dec: 2020	Freya Fisher	Judy Marcini	Washington Native Plant Society	Elaine Hill	Sherrie Tinoco
Virginia Scott	Jill Fransen	Jackelyn Mayfield	Violet Watson	Carey Holubar	Jane Luck
Susan Setterberg	Michelle Gardes	William McCullum	Susan Wickersham	Charles Houghton	Janet Verrinder
Beth Lichter	Susan Gerow	Juliet McGraw	William Williams	Terry Hurd	Amy Wells
2021	Judi Gilles	Kenneth Meyer – Battle	Karen Wood	Eric Johansen	Den Mark Wichar
Peggy Adams, in honor of Helen M. Sioradzky	Giving Group Realty, In honor of Emily Lane and Yousef Katali	Ground Art Alliance	Barbara Wright	Benjamin John	Katherine Wiese
Libby & Jack Bernhardsen Adcock	Pat Gorman	Gwendolyn Morgan	Tom & Lisa Zeiner	Dennis Johnson	Anna Wilde
Jack & Jeanne Androvich	Heather Gramp	Catherine Mueller-Wille	#GiveMore24	Frederick Kerr	Sarah Williams Brown
Jean Avery	Michael Greenstreet	Bianca Muller	Eugene Beireis	E. Michael Kipp	Susan Wolff
Backyard Bird Shop in honor of their 30th Anniversary Celebration	Joe Griffith	Murdock Trust	Robin Bradford	Donald Laurine	#GivingTuesday
Rollin Bannow	Mary Grout	Linda Murtfeldt	Byron Brink	Leslie Lopez	Cynthia A Bland
William Baumann	Sonia Hales	Kay Naumann	James Clapp	Judith Lundeen	Karen Beall
Gayle Benton	Susan Harbison	Donna & Lee Oneil	Katherine Clark	Donna MacKenzie	Deborah Bernardo
Barbara Bloomfield	Jennifer & Dan Heinrichs	Pam & Jeff Osbourne	Jennifer Corio	Christine Maitland	Christine Maitland
Robin & Lyle Bradford	Bob Herchick	Margie Palmrose	Dennis Cox	Marilyn Martinyak	James C Nindel-Edwards
David Braun	Randy & Elaine Hill	Dave Phelps	Mark Danburg-Wyld	Arabeth Mashek	Dennis Cox
Byron Brink, In honor of Columbia White-tailed Deer	Melinda Hinkley	Linda Pointer	Marlene Delsy	Steven McLaughlin	Mel T. Sanchez
Anne Bulger	Cassandra Hughes	George Pollock	Alex Earl	Delena Meyer	Freya Fisher
David Capolarello	Catherine Hughes	Steve Rauske	Esther Eldridge, In honor of Stephen Cornick, Sophia, A Favorite place	Curt Mohler	Meghan Johnson
Chambers Group Inc.	Sherene Huntzinger, Huntzinger/Ikenze Family Fund	Kay Richardson	Tanna Engdahl	Donna Oneil	Bernadine Kahler
Jane Chinn	Phyllis Hyatt	Karen Roberts	Freya Fisher	Pam Osborne	Leslie Lopez
James Clapp	Eric Johansen	Sam & Mildred Robinson	Judith Gilles	David Page	Christine Maitland
Katherine Clark	Jill Rogers & Ted Labbe	Rosauers	Erinne Goodell	Kirk Paulsen	Sunrise O'mahoney
Craft Warehouse	Patricia Larson	Barbara Ross	Charles Green	James Potter	Kirk Paulsen
Paul & Ivadell Crosby	Donald Laurine	William Roulaine	Marsha Gregor	Steve Rauske	Anna Pellissier
Lisa Davis	Jim & Gloria Lawrence	Cory Samia	Gary Grossman	Samuel Robinson	Kevin Price
Sandra Day, In Honor: The First People Of the Columbia River	Ned Leager	Susan Setterberg	Jana Grote, In memory of all the Ancestors of this area!	Russell Roseberry	Samuel Robinson
Joy Diamond	Denise Lewis	Cindy Skrivanek	Mary Grout	Maureen Shuette, In honor of our grandchildren...	William Roulaine
Tonya Dow	Richard & Loretta I instad, Sadie Cares	Donald and Alison Slymen Charitable Fund	David Gurock	Theresa Schulte	Chris Sanborn
Kaye Duncan	Leslie Lopez	Jill Spencer	Jan Haig	Victoria Silao	Victoria Silao
Dale Estes	Tracy Maguire	Joyce Stilwell	Hailey Heath	Cynthia Schulte	Cynthia Skrivanek
	Irwin Maloff	Gerald & Margarget Taborsky	Kathleen Hensch-Fleming	Victoria Silao	Taylor Supina
	Catherine Manzone	Julie Tanner	Scott Hewitt	Cynthia Skrivanek	Barbara W Ogden
		Tidewater		Eileen Smith	Kathleen Wayne
		Robert Thinnas		Jill Spencer	Tom & Lisa Zeiner
		Robert Vanderkamp		Christopher Spurgin	<i>& all those who bought merch, calendars, and other store items!</i>
				DeAnn Swanson	
				Julie Tanner	



Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events

Gate times for both units (barring inclement weather closures) will change from 7:30 am to **8 am - 4:30 pm** as of Saturday, January 1st, 2022.

The River 'S' Unit & Auto Tour is closed through 12/30/21 due to unsafe conditions on the entrance road and bridge - check our social media channels or website for updates on when this closure will be lifted

Don't forget that the Carty Unit Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail, within the Oak Restoration area, is generally closed Thursdays for trail maintenance, watch for signs.

NOTE: The Washington State Discover Pass is not valid on Federally managed public lands, including National Wildlife Refuges. Find out more about [fees & passes here](#).

Check the Refuge2020.info website for project updates, like the Steigerwald Lake reconnection project, Carty Unit Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail developments, and more!

To feel more connected to nature and the Refuge while staying home, stay tuned to the Friends Social Media streams on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram - we are working to share activities, videos of nature on and off the Refuge, and more. Social links can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

Annual Member Meeting Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 29th** for our Annual Membership and Volunteer Appreciation Meeting!



Stay tuned for more details and an official invite, coming soon!

There is still time to become a member and join us, [learn more here.](#)

2022 Calendars & Merch

Check out the 2021 Refuge Photo Contest winning images in this spectacular collection. Our 2022 calendar not only features the winning images along with their photographer's name and place, but also includes fun facts about the subjects of each photo, important Refuge-related holidays, and more!

Support wildlife, nature, and education, with the one gift that keeps on giving.

Available in regular 8.5x11 and XL 11x14 sizes!

[Buy calendars here](#)



Check out our NEW store items, with more being added all the time! We have mugs that change colors, tote bags, sweatshirts, and more, all featuring our 2019, 2020, AND 2021 Refuge Photo Contest winning photos, 2021 Spring Break Youth Art Contest art, *as well as* the 2021 BirdFest & Bluegrass button image, and the "Back to the Refuge" logo!

[START SHOPPING!](#)

Get your friends and family (or yourself!) a gift that will remind them of nature's beauty and support a wonderful cause!

[Let us know](#) if there is something you'd like to see.

If there isn't something you like, you can always [donate](#), or [buy a membership to the Friends](#) in someone's name - an annual gift program that supports wildlife, habitat, volunteers, education, and more.



Cathlapotle Plankhouse Updates & Events

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This year's Winter Solstice has me a bit more reflective than usual. It has long been my second favorite holiday of the year and I have my own personal routines that I follow to honor our



shortest day and longest night. However, amid all of the chaos of 2020 I don't have strong memories of last year's entire holiday season. Which means, for me, I was greatly distracted and focused on other things besides gratitude.

Yesterday, while checking on the Nettle that our Native gathering group tends on the Refuge, I encountered many of our four-legged and winged relatives. It had been a very challenging morning and I was grateful for duties that called me outdoors. The short errand quickly became an exercise in grounding. Wildlife abounded and I did not want to disturb my family. What was required was focus on the living present moment rather than the concerns of hours past. I drove quietly and cautiously enough that I spooked none of the Columbia White-tailed Deer I passed on the way to the location. The resident Eagles...Keep Reading...

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

image: Juliet McGraw - River S Unit sunset



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. [RNWR Page here.](#)

Habitat Restoration Updates & Events

Weed of the Month - Shiny Geranium

Winter on the west side of the Cascades is a good time to survey for one of the most aggressive invasive species we encounter on the Refuge. Shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) is a Eurasian plant species that is not only quick to establish on disturbed open ground but can also infest healthy native landscapes. Listed as a Class B invasive by the state of Washington, and included on the state's quarantine list, shiny geranium has started to show up as a contaminant in nursery stock. Shiny geranium is shade tolerant and will establish at the base of shrubs and trees and quickly spread underneath a shrub layer. Because the plant stays green after other plants have shed...



[Keep reading for the Shiny Geranium fact sheet...](#)

-Keith Rutz, Friends of RNWR Habitat Restoration Coordinator

Photo caption: Shiny Geranium

Refuge Volunteering

Solstice Musings

As 2021 comes to a close I find myself feeling grateful for the volunteers, supporters, and staff that have come together during an unforgettable year. Our volunteers have been supportive and flexible during these unpredictable times. I look forward to the days when we can share



photos!

lunches in circles less than 6 feet apart. One thing I can appreciate about social distancing is the unique perspectives and challenges that come with taking group

I am pleased to report that with our small volunteer crews, the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge was able to record 1,197 volunteer hours this past year! That is something worth celebrating. Best wishes, and a happy new year!

-Elena Tinoco, FRNWR Volunteer Coordinator

image description: Socially distanced meeting by Elena Tinoco

Birding Enthusiasts

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



Ridgefield First Saturdays - New Year Celebration

January 1, 2022

Due to taking place on a holiday, January First Saturday will be virtual in 2022. Stop by the [event page](#) or the Facebook Page, Ridgefield First Saturdays, for New Years traditions, recipes, and more. Kick-off 2022 in Ridgefield!

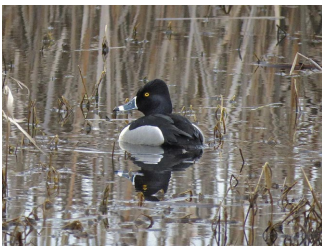
[Celebration ideas, details, and more...](#)



Species Spotlight

Ring-neck Duck

Aythya collaris



Of all the diving duck species, the Ring-necked Duck is most likely to drop into small ponds during migration, making them a common visitor during the spring and winter here in Ridgefield. Despite their name, the ring on the neck is almost never visible. Male Ring-necked Ducks are compact ducks with a peaked, deep-black, iridescent head, breast, and rump, and light flanks in the breeding season. Overall, the Ring-necked Duck is similar in appearance to both the Greater and Lesser Scaups, but unlike the scaups... [keep reading...](#)

-Samantha Zeiner, Friends of RNWR Administrative Coordinator

-Photo by Virginia Scott - a male Ring-neck Duck

Become a Business Alliance Member!

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](#)

Supporting the Ridgefield NWR
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.

Your annual Business Alliance Membership connects you with:

- 200,000+ visitors annually;
- 1,000 students participating in field trips and educational programs;
- 4,000 visitors to BirdFeast & Bungee;
- 3,000 attendees at Plankhouse events;
- 1,200 monthly newsletter readers;
- 1,100 monthly website visits;
- and 150 community volunteers who provide more than 10,000 hours of work.

The Blanding on Nature study released in 2013 reports that an average of \$4.87 is returned to local communities for every dollar Congress provides 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!

Photograph Credit: Douglas Beal, Angie Vogel, Osa Hadden, Tina Anderson.

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 3022
Ridgefield, WA 98642
www.ridgefieldnwr.org

Join our Business Alliance!

5200K Reprinted Fred Meyer Customer Card, Photo: Christine Fries and POC ArtPhoto.



Board Seeking New 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, and [contact us here](#)

Friends Board Meetings

Join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Board for their monthly meeting. Meetings start at 5pm every *third* Monday of the month and will be *on Zoom until further notice*, [contact us](#) to join in!

2022: January 18*, February 22*, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 21*, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19
(*moved due to federal holiday)



Support 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!

Would you like to enjoy a cup of coffee from Ridgefield's Seasons Coffee 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 Shovel & Thumb 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.

Benefits of Membership



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.

Sponsors

Business Alliance Members:

In-Kind Support:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners:



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

FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#)

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.

