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The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | October, 2022

BirdFest & Bluegrass

Saturday, October 1st, 2022

The 2022 BirdFest & Bluegrass will be entirely in person! The City of Ridgefield will be hosting in-person in-town events, including vendors and music in Downtown Ridgefield, plus we will have a self-guided Carty Unit Refuge hike, wandering trail stewards to answer questions, Sandhill Crane Tours, tours of the new Refuge office building, and a bus tour of the River 'S' Unit!

The Refuge will be fee-free, and seasonal trails will be open for an extra weekend!

Commemorative Buttons featuring the Bird of the Year,

BIRDFEST & BLUEGRASS
RIDGEFIELD WA

DOWNTOWN RIDGEFIELD

9:00am-2:00pm Marketplace Vendors & Family crafts & other Activities

11:00am-7:00pm Bluegrass Concerts @ Sportsman's Public House, Ridgefield Craft Brewing, & Overlook Park

12:00-5:00pm Bluegrass Jamming at locations all over town

ON THE REFUGE
FREE TO VISIT & SEASONAL TRAILS WILL BE OPEN!

28908 N Main AVE - Carty Unit

10:00am-4:00pm Carty Unit activities

- Opening Blessing by Chinook Indian Nation @ 10 am
- Spotting Scopes with Vancouver Audubon
- Community Partner Booths
- Self-Guided Wander Walk
- Family Activities
- New Refuge Office Tours Hourly
- Pro Photo Supply Photo Contest Display

10:30am Guided Geology Tour

1071 S Hillhurst Rd - River 'S' Unit Auto Tour

10:00am Visita Familiar Hispana (Tour en Español / Spanish Language Tour)

11:30am-4:00pm Auto Tour Bus Journey
Tours every 1.5 hrs

<Events above are FREE>
*All events subject to change

image: Jane Gilliland

BIRDFEST BUTTONS @ SELECT LOCATIONS

\$5.00

EVENT DETAILS
SCAN ME

OPEN, AIM, TAP

FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
www.RidgefieldFriends.org

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST SCHEDULE

Sandhill Crane Tours are by Reservation Only- 6 am & 5pm.
Saturday 10/1 & Sunday 10/2

the Killdeer, on sale at [Seasons Coffee & Tea](#) inside of the Old Liberty Theater in Downtown Ridgefield, and [Vancouver's Backyard Birdshop](#), for \$5! Buttons will be available while supplies last during the festival as well.

On the Refuge

Carty Unit Activities - 28908 NW Main Ave, 10am-4pm

10am - Opening Blessing with Chinook Indian Nation

10:30am- Guided Geology Tour

Montana Comes to Ridgefield. Join local geologist Jim Maul for an interpretive walk around the Carty Unit. Jim will share with you the story of the landscape of the Refuge and Ridgefield area and its connection to the Missoula Floods that inundated our area at the end of the last ice age. Meet at the Oaks-to-Wetlands Trailhead by the fee station.

Spotting Scopes with Vancouver Audubon

While you check out the new administration building on the Carty Unit, stop by the Administrative Office overlook deck to visit with Vancouver Audubon Society birders staffing a scoping station overlooking Carty Lake and more.

Community Partners booths

Come connect with our family of partner organizations dedicated to helping you connect with the outdoors.

Self-Guided Wander Walk

Wander the Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail and find out how your senses can enhance your appreciation of the outdoors. Signs will lead you down the paved quarter-mile portion of the entire 1.39-mile trail. The trail leading from parking lot to the walk is compact gravel.

Family Activities

Join Fish & Wildlife staff and volunteers for family-friendly wildlife related crafts and activities focused on Killdeer, Lamprey, and more.

New Refuge Office Tours Hourly

Starting at 10am, find out more about that new building you have seen growing on the Carty Unit for so long now! This building houses the administrative offices of the Refuge's Fish & Wildlife Service

staff, as well as volunteers and Friends staff. See where all the planning is done for Refuge programming and more in our new meeting rooms, and visit the overlook deck where spotting scopes will be stationed, and check out the view.

Photo Contest Reveal

Pro Photo Supply and the Friends of the Refuge will display the winners of the 2022 Photo Contest at the entrance to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Administration Building, on the Carty Unit.

River 'S' Unit Auto Tour - 1071 S Hillhurst Rd

10:00am: Visita Familiar Hispana--Reservation only- CLOSED

(Tour en Español / Spanish Language Tour)

11:30am-4:00pm: Auto Tour Bus Journey.

Join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and expert guides and assistants, on a free ride around the auto tour route of the Ridgefield Refuge, during BirdFest & Bluegrass 2022. Bring the family and possibly see everything from bald eagles to beavers. There is always something to see, and wildlife can be enjoyed no matter the season. This child-friendly event is perfect if you just want to learn a little about the birds you see, learn about the Refuge, or relax and enjoy the view without having to drive. Each tour has a limited capacity of 30 people.

Tours every 1.5 hours.

Sandhill Crane Tours - Reservation Only-- CLOSED

Downtown Ridgefield

Vendor Market - Overlook Park, 9am-2pm

Explore over 40 local vendors at Overlook Park from 9am to 2pm. Vendors include artisan bread and pastries, handmade crafts and gifts, artwork from local artists, snacks, ceramics and so much more.

BirdFest & Bluegrass Crafts - Overlook Park, 9am-2pm

Make your own souvenir from the 2022 BirdFest and Bluegrass! Our craft tent will be fully loaded with supplies and instructions for you to make and take fun bird and bluegrass themed items. While supplies last.

Orienteering - Abrams Park, 10am-12pm

Explore the Abrams Park permanent orienteering course! Staff will be onsite to introduce you to the sport of orienteering and you can collect a bird sticker at each control!

Used Book Sale - Ridgefield Library Community Room, 10am-3pm

The Ridgefield Friends of the Library Fall Used Book Sale! Great books and great prices!

Children's books and DVD's: \$1

Paperbacks: \$3

Hardbacks: \$5

Bluegrass Music

Bluegrass Jamming - 12pm-5pm

Bring your string instrument and jam along with others at one of our dedicated jamming locations!

Outdoor Locations:

Ridgefield Craft Brewing Co. Tapouse: 120 N 3rd Ave, Back Porch, 12pm-4pm (21+ Establishment)

Sportsmans Public House: 121 N Main Ave, Back Porch, 12pm-4pm

Opus School of Music: 414 Pioneer St, Courtyard, 12pm-4pm

Carts by the Park: 219 Pioneer St, 12pm-5pm

Old Liberty Theater: 115 N Main Ave, 12pm-5pm

Indoor Locations:

Ridgefield Community Library: 210 N Main Ave, Teen Room, 12pm-5pm

Zebrun's Starliner: 320 Pioneer St, Dining Room, 12pm-5pm

Bluegrass Performances - 11:45am-7pm

Overlook Park Stage, 113-131 S Main Ave, Ridgefield, WA 98642

Phoenix Duo, 11am-2pm

Sportsmans Public House, 121 N Main Ave

Ash Creek, 11:45-12:45

Whistlin' Rufus, 1pm-2pm

Hardshell Harmony, 2:15pm-3:15pm

Corral Creek, 3:30pm-4:30pm

Ridgefield Craft Brewing Co. Taphouse: 120 N 3rd Ave (21+ Establishment)

Whiskey Deaf, 5pm-7pm

[City of Ridgefield website](#), [Friends BirdFest & Bluegrass website](#)

Events subject to change, more details and up-to-date information on our website, stay tuned!



Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events

Gate times for both units 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Seasonal Trails close Sept 30th & re-open May 1st

Except during BirdFest & Bluegrass, October 1st

Carty Lake Trail entrance at the Port of Ridgefield: The Carty Lake Trail entrance at the Port of Ridgefield is open! This new trail system offers Port visitors a fee-based, seasonal walking trail with views of wildlife on Carty Lake, and takes the public to the Cathlapotle Plankhouse, the Oaks to Wetlands Trail System, and the Refuge Office. The Port entrance to the Carty Lake Trail has a small, fee-free out-and-back section that leads to an overlook of Lake River.

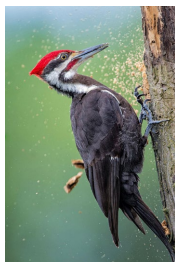
Kiwa Trail: After being closed much of the summer, the Kiwa Trail will be open an extra day in celebration of BirdFest & Bluegrass! About halfway through the Auto Tour Route, find a small parking lot where you can park and access this flat walking trail. It is a 1.3 mile loop, over half of which has little to no shade, so keep that in mind and bring water and sunscreen. Mosquitos may also be an issue.

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 on all our Refuges in the Ridgefield Complex.

Birding Enthusiasts



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

Ridgefield First Saturdays BirdFest & Bluegrass October 1, 2022

Spend time Downtown and on the Refuge during the annual Friends of the Refuge festival!

BirdFest & Bluegrass is a joint event planned in a partnership between the City of Ridgefield and the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge that includes vendors, community and birding activities, and a Bluegrass Pickers Festival.



Species Spotlight

BirdFest & Bluegrass 2022 Bird of the Year Killdeer



The first question everyone asks is, where does the name “Killdeer” come from? These members of the plover family have a pretty unmistakable call, loud enough to hear at long distances, that sounds like an excited utterance of the word, “killdeer!” Eighteenth-century naturalists also noticed how noisy Killdeer are, giving them names such as the Chattering Plover and the Noisy Plover. You can often hear this sound even after the sun sets, or when they take flight.

In the breeding season, males fly high over nesting territory in a floating, wavering flight, with slow, deep wingbeats, while giving that signature ‘kill-deer’ call repeatedly. On the ground, their courtship displays include ritualized nest-scrape making. The nest ends up a shallow scrape in soil or gravel, either unlined or lined with pebbles, grass, twigs, bits of debris.

Of course, even more well known than their call is their broken-wing act to lead predators away from their vulnerable nests. Like other members of the plover family, this species is often found at the water’s edge, but it also lives in pastures and fields far from water, gravel is a particular favorite because of how well it helps blend in with their eggs. Many have been fooled by the ‘broken-wing’ act, where the Killdeer flutters along the ground with one wing extended in a show of injury...**Keep reading at the bottom of our BirdFest & Bluegrass page!**

-Samantha Zeiner, Administrator

image: Adult female Killdeer with babies under her wings, by Stephanie Hazen

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](#)



Board Seeking New Members Or, Join a Committee

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is a non-profit dedicated to promoting, 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 5 PM every second Monday of the month and will be **on Zoom until further notice**, [contact us](#) to join in!

2022: October 11, November 14, December 12



2022 Merch- BirdFest & Bluegrass 2022 merch added, & 2022 Refuge Photo Contest items coming soon!



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, 2021 and (coming soon) 2022 Refuge Photo Contest winning photos, 2021 Spring Break Youth Art Contest art, *as well as* the 2022 and 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!

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.



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.

Would you like to enjoy a cup of coffee from Ridgefield's Seasons Coffee after a morning hike on the Refuge? Lunch 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

Benefits of Membership

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.

Sponsors

Business Alliance Members:

In-Kind Support:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners:





Header Photo Credit: Gary Grossman, 2018, 1st place Landscape Category, 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.

