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The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | May, 2023

GiveBIG - May 2-3, 2023!



Join us for 48 hours of giving during GiveBig 2023, the new version of #GiveMore24, an event that is usually in September; **Now May 2-3, 2023!**

Imagine a place to come together to protect wildlife and educate future stewards of our wild place. That can be here, and the time can be now. **Learn more about the future Community Nature Center** at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

Bookmark our page and mark your calendars for the NEW biggest giving day for Southwest Washington nonprofits.

Follow our Campaign Here, & Give- May 2-3rd, 2023



Seasonal Trails re-open May 1st- EXCEPT THE KIWA TRAIL!

We are on Sandhill Crane nest watch, it is looking like we will have a nesting pair for maybe the 4th year in a row! [Learn More about Sandhill Cranes in Washington State here.](#)

Facing injury and accessibility, with nature at my side

It's not a new thing, I fall down at times. Sometimes I even fall UP hill or on flat surfaces. I just usually get back up, no problem. Until the other day.

There was no major obstacle in my way nor path I hadn't taken a hundred times, but nevertheless a daily act of walking ended up with myself slipping in the rain and landing on my back on the pavement below.

Pain instantly shot through my right knee, and I knew despite the rain drenching me, I might be laying there for a bit. Luckily friends came to my side and were able to help me indoors where the pain just kept increasing, but I was dry.

Having injured my ankle rock climbing many years back and having just taken a wilderness first aid course at the beginning of the month, I knew what to consider in evaluating my health and what was best for...[keep reading...](#)

-Mesha Wood, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Park Ranger

image: ©USFWS/Mesha Wood, dinner with a view



The Carty Unit Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail, within the Oak Restoration area, may close occasionally for trail maintenance, watch for signs.

[Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Administration Office](#) is open Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm.
General inquiries M-F, 8 to 4:30 can be answered at 360-887-4106.

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.](#)

Refuge Volunteer Orientation

First Volunteer Orientation of 2023 May 7th

time: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

at: the Evergreen School District Building in
Vancouver

It will serve to:

- Build relationships and start good communication between new volunteers, returning volunteers, staff, and partners.
- Get important introductory information to new volunteers about who we are and what

SHARE YOUR LOVE OF THE OUTDOORS WITH STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND EVERYONE IN BETWEEN

VOLUNTEER AT THE REFUGE

GET INVOLVED AT RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX



CONNECT YOUTH TO NATURE WITH US

Photo Caption: Refuge staff helping a young naturalist discover what they can see from Red tail bridge at Steigerwald Lake TRM

Refuge Ambassadors welcome visitors and support communities in learning about nature exploration at the Refuge and in their backyards.

We offer the opportunity to share your passions and connect with people. The best part is that you get to help others learn about the Refuge!

Bring your smile and help us:

- Engage visitors on trails/our facilities
- Lead guided walks
- Lead on-site programs
- Staff events in the community
- Assist with school field trips

Join us at our volunteer orientation to learn more.

MAY 7TH
9:00 AM to 2:30 PM



SCAN ME to visit the refuge volunteer website & sign up

WWW.FWS.GOV/REFUGE/RIDGEFIELD

This event is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collaboration with our partners, the Friends of Ridgefield NWR and the Gorge Refuge Stewards, and is committed to providing access to all. Please direct all requests for accommodations to Mesha_Wood@fws.gov, 360-887-4106, TTY 800-877-8339

we do.

-Refresh those volunteers returning that may not have received this info, or have forgotten.

-Train everyone on ways we work to keep our programs running safely and smoothly.

-Returning volunteers and staff present volunteer opportunities available that year and help new folks understand where they may fit.

Please sign up for the orientation by emailing RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov with your name, number, and if you have an interest in helping at the orientation by no

later than May 1st.

Intention: ALL volunteers, both new and returning, are required to attend just one orientation per year. (our next orientation will be scheduled for late summer/early fall.)

Questions or other needs, reach out to RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov and we'll be in touch. We look forward to seeing you and will be sharing more about the day's agenda when the event gets closer.

Thanks, Ridgefield Staff

(click flyer to view larger or download, [scan for more details](#))

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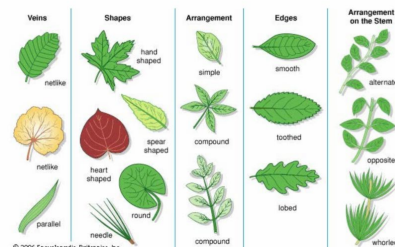
Habitat Restoration Update

Invasives to watch for this spring

Check out this slideshow of invasive weeds to help yourself find and remove them this spring; in your yard, or as a volunteer on the refuge. (click the image to be taken to the ~2-minute video on our website)

Common Leaf Shapes and Arrangements

© Encyclopaedia Britannica



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Provided by the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program

Volunteer Training, May 7th

The first Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex Volunteer Training of the year will be on May 7th, a Sunday. We hope to see new and returning volunteers who want to

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

PLAY IN THE WILDS. SOAK UP THE SUN. AND GET INVOLVED WITH US.

VOLUNTEER AT THE REFUGE

GET INVOLVED AT RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX



SPEND TIME IN NATURE WITH US

Photo Caption: Refuge volunteer taking photos along the seasonal lake trail at Ridgefield NWR

Volunteer Enhancers help improve habitat to enhance wildlife health and the visitor experience. We offer the opportunity to learn hands-on skills in the field. The level of field work and experience is necessary.

Get your hands dirty with us and help:

- Remove invasive plants
- Monitor plant life
- Recreate trails and facilities
- Seed plants in greenhouse

Join us at our volunteer orientation to learn more.

MAY 7TH
9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

SCAN QR to visit the refuge volunteer website & sign up

WWW.FWS.GOV/REFUGE/RIDGEFIELD

help with a variety of projects both indoors and out (but mostly out).

In particular, the refuge will be looking for help with habitat restoration projects of all kinds and sizes this summer and fall, and beyond. Let them know when you sign up if you are interested in helping with habitat restoration specifically. See you out there.

-Samantha Zeiner, Friends of RNWR Administrator, & Keith Rutz, Friends of RNWR Habitat Restoration Coordinator

image: click to view larger or download, [scan for more details](#)

From the Contact Station Spring Soon Please

I know the Great Pacific Northwest has a reputation for rain, but seriously, aren't we all ready for some prolonged sunshine? Ponds and lakes continue to be full. Have you noticed how many American Bitterns have been spotted along the edges of the road. They are used to wetlands, but having to swim through them may be pushing them to the edges where we are getting great views. You can see the Canada Geese sitting on the higher vegetation humps in Rest Lake. The wetlands nesters don't like their eggs to be under water. I am wondering how much this will affect nesting success or cause a delay...Keep reading...



-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer

image: American Bittern by Susan Setterberg

Gorge Refuge Stewards Youth Photography Contest

Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge
YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

GORGE REFUGE STEWARDS

4 Categories to Enter!

- People in Nature
- SmartPhone
- Plant, Animal, and/or Fungi
- Landscape

Enter photos taken Oct 2022 - May 2023

3 Prizes in each category plus a peoples choice!

Ages 10-18 eligible

Calling all photographers aged 10 to 18! If you have visited Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and have taken photos within the boundaries of the refuge during the time period between Oct 1, 2022 and May 29, 2023, then those images could be eligible for the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards Youth Photography Contest!

Submissions are due May 29th

[Learn more and submit, here](#)



Sponsored by:

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS BY
MAY 29, 2023
AT MIDNIGHT



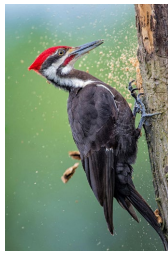
For more details and to enter, scan QR code or visit:

refugestewards.org/youthphotocontest

The contest is created and sponsored by the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards. Corporate sponsors include Columbia Credit Union and HD Aluminum Prints.

Birding Enthusiasts

Ridgefield First



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

Saturdays Spring Festival May 6th, 2023

Celebrate the anniversary of Ridgefield First Saturdays at the annual celebration of spring!

[See the Full Schedule and more HERE](#)



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;
- 5,000 students participating in field trips and educational programs;
- 4,000 visitors to Birdfest & Bluegrass;
- 3,000 attendees at Planthouse events;
- 1,200 monthly newsletter readers;
- 1,500 monthly website visits;
- and 250 community volunteers who provide more than 10,000 hours of work.

The Banking 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!

Thankyou Credits: Oregon Trust, Arroyo Vogel, Don Hartley, Paul Hession.

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 9513
Ridgefield, WA 98642
www.ridgefieldnwr.org

Join our Business Alliance!

100% Recycled Post-Consumer Content, Permanent Chlorine Free and FSC Certified.



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).

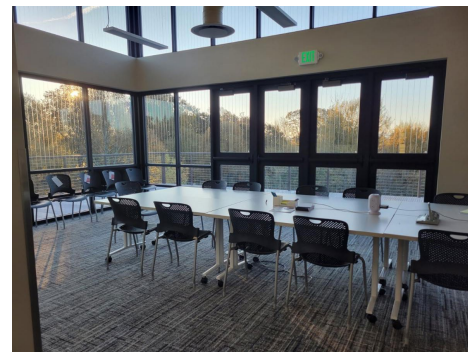
Find out more, and [contact us here](#)

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 either be in-person at the Ridgefield NWR Administration Building (28908 NW Main AVE), or virtual, the plan is to switch off each month. [Contact us](#) to join in!

Board Meeting Dates for 2023:

- May 8th (virtual)
- June 12th
- July 10th (virtual)
- August 14th
- September 11th (Virtual)
- October 10th*
- November 13th (Virtual)
- December 11th



(*moved due to federal holiday)



2022/2023 Merch Updates

NEW Puzzles!, merch featuring contest winners, BirdFest & Bluegrass button images, Chinookan Steller's Jay art by Greg Robinson, and more!

Who loves a good jigsaw puzzle on a dark winter evening? Or maybe you know someone who does? Then we have the perfect gift for you!

We also have mugs, tote bags, photo cards, t-shirts and sweatshirts with previous photo contest winners, BirdFest logos and art, and the Chinookan Steller's Jay design by Greg A. Robinson. Get your friends and family (or yourself!) a gift that will remind them of nature's beauty and support a wonderful cause!



[SHOP FOR PUZZLES!](#)

[Shop Here! \(everything but puzzle link\)](#)

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.

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 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:

ROSAUERS
SUPERMARKETS



*Craticle
Design*



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners:



Header Photo Credit: Sandra Michaelis, 2018, 2nd place Plant 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.

