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The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | May, 2023



Ridgefield Refuge Complex News & Events

Gate times for both units: 5:30 am - 9:00 pm

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

It looks as though the Sandhill Cranes were unable to successfully nest this year. Because they are so secretive, we don't know if they couldn't incubate the egg, they never even tried to lay one, or if they were subject to predation. Because Sandhill Cranes are so sensitive, they are one of those species that don't have consistent success year after year. Hopefully, they will try again next year and be successful once again.

Make sure to stick to the trail, and come prepared for a walk in the sun!

[Learn More about Sandhill Cranes in Washington State here.](#)

RIVER S UNIT CLOSURE 6/1/2023

The River S Unit Auto Tour Route (1071 S Hillhurst) will be closed to the public on Thursday, 6/1/23, for the entire day in order to complete some maintenance like filling potholes and mowing. The unit will re-open Friday, 6/2 at the posted time.

During this closure, the **Carty Unit at Ridgefield** (28908 NW Main Ave) and visitor facilities at **Steigerwald Lake NWR** (35001 Lewis & Clark HWY) will remain open.

Thank you for your patience!

Welcome Alyssa Jayne and Palmer

This year at the Ridgefield Refuge Complex, Alyssa Jayne Mayor and Palmer Haffner are aiming to bring back education to the refuges in full force! Jayne will be leading the Youth Conservation Crew on impactful conservation projects throughout the refuges, with a focus on educational opportunities for older students to inspire the future conservationists of our world. Meanwhile, Palmer will be working directly with school groups and students who visit the refuge, as well as creating new educational resources and curriculum for the refuge to take advantage of in the years to come. As education ramps up again for the Complex, they both strive to make the refuges a place for connection, curiosity, and involvement.



More about YCC

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is hiring four youth, aged 15-18, for the U.S. Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). This 8-week summer paid position is a wonderful opportunity for youth to experience meaningful work on wildlife refuges and our other partner sites. YCC members will engage with the outdoors, learn basic job skills, and explore unique projects and careers. The work schedule is typically Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Applications must be postmarked by June 1, 2023 for consideration or dropped off at the Refuge Office in Ridgefield. For an application or more information, email Crew Leader Alyssa Jayne at: alyssajayne_mayor@fws.gov.

Interested in bringing your group to Ridgefield or Steigerwald Lake?

The spring schedule is full but we are accepting requests for July and August. Fill out the [education request here](#).

If you have additional questions you can email RidgefieldEducation@fws.gov

-Josie Finley (she/her), Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex Visitor Services Coordinator

image: Jayne & Palmer out in the field ©USFWS

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 8am-4pm.

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](#).

From the Contact Station Magnificent Migration

What is it? Did you notice this odd object which was uncovered

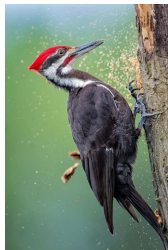
during the removal of blackberries in April? The way it is sitting, it looks like it might have gathered intelligence from outer space, unsuccessfully I would guess. Well, you never know what you might find when you start clearing blackberry patches. Deputy Refuge Manager, Eric Anderson calls it, “A blast from the past.”...**Keep reading...**

-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer

image by Susan Setterberg



Birding Enthusiasts



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

Ridgefield First Saturdays

Big Paddle June 3rd, 2023

Celebrate the Lewis River to Vancouver Lake Water Trail and our natural environment with a paddle on Lake River.



Find the Friends:

Guided Refuge Hike with Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge 10 AM & 1 PM

To celebrate National Trails Day, head on a group hike led by the Friends, from the Port of Ridgefield through the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Group hikes will take place at 10am and 1pm, no registration is necessary. **The Refuge will be fee-free during Big Paddle!**

[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](#)



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

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;
- 1,200 monthly weekly walks;
- 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.

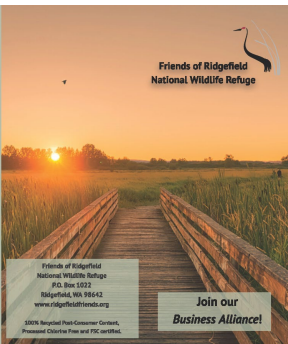
Your partnership with the Friends helps ensure the future and success of this breathtaking natural resource invested in your community by becoming a part of our Business Alliance today!

Photograph Credits: Douglas Baul, Ariga Naga, Oca Iordache, Tom Harkin.



Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
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Ridgefield, WA 98642
www.ridgefieldfriends.org

Join our Business Alliance!



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 5th**

July 10th (virtual)

August 14th

September 11th (Virtual)

October 10th*

November 13th (Virtual)

December 11th

(*moved due to federal holiday)

(**Moved by Board)



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:



In-Kind Support:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners:



Header Photo: Oca Hoeflein, 2018, 2nd place Landscape Category, Refuge Photo Contest

FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 

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

Want regular updates on Refuge events & happenings? Follow the Friends on social media by clicking the logos below to stay connected even when you are off the Refuge.

