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## The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | December 2023

### 2024 Refuge Photo Contest Calendars!



Start your holiday shopping and finish it all in one place!

A gift for your loved ones, or a gift for you: view the 2023 Pro Photo Supply Ridgefield NWR Photo Contest Winners in this captivating collection!

8.5×11, XL, & Jumbo wall sizes available

*Plus, check out our other photo contest winner items* like tote bags, sweatshirts, a variety of mug styles, photo cards, t-shirts, and more!

[Start Shopping](#)

*Psst...if you love settling in with a good jigsaw puzzle on a dark winter evening...*

[Click Here for Puzzles!](#)

## Help Wildlife with Everyday Purchases

Let your pocket change work for you, and make a difference for nature, like helping to keep wildlife wild.

1. Head to [RidgefieldFriends.org](http://RidgefieldFriends.org), then click the green "Donate" button on bottom-left of any page.
2. Activate any card you use for your daily purchases.
3. Set your monthly giving limit. You can change your limit at any time.
4. Every purchase you make with your designated card will be automatically rounded up, and the proceeds donated directly to the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge in support of the Refuge's programs.
5. While not required, by registering an account, you help reduce duplicates and allows you to access and edit your donation details at any time.



It's that easy!

[Donate Your Spare Change](#)

[Questions? Check out the FAQ, here.](#)



### Ridgefield Complex News & Events

Gate times for both units of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge; 7:30 am - 4:30 pm



#### Winter Birding Hikes

Walks start at 8:00 am at the [Carty Unit of the Refuge](#), and pre-registration is required. While walks generally last two to three hours, you are welcome to stay or leave according to your needs. Walks are free but the \$3 refuge daily fee does apply.

#### Birding with Ron Escano:

- Saturday, December 2, 8:00 am

#### Birding with Robert Vanderkamp:

- Saturday, December 9, 8:00 am
- Saturday, January 13, 8:00 am

*White-breasted Nuthatch by Pat Snyder*

[Head to the Official FWS Website for Details](#)

*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

### Shorter, Colder Days as Winter Approaches



**How does a vole or salamander taste?** In October, I took a long-awaited trip back to New Jersey to visit friends I had long delayed seeing and to enjoy John Forsythe NWR and Cape May State Park for the raptor migration. Wonderful trip...[Keep reading...](#)

-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer  
Great Egret by Susan Setterberg

## News from Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge & the Gorge Refuge Stewards

The Gorge Refuge Stewards, a local stewardship group, has some exciting committee volunteer opportunities for those passionate about the environment, conservation, or sustainability. The Gorge Refuge Stewards support the Steigerwald Lake NWR, one of the Ridgefield NWR Complex's refuges, and help connect the community to nature.

Whether you have a couple hours a week, or only a couple hours a month, they'd love to know your interest.

**Gorge Refuge Stewards Volunteer Opportunities**

Have a love of nature, conservation, or sustainability? We have opportunities for you!

The Gorge Refuge Stewards is an organization that supports the Steigerwald refuge and helps to connect the community to nature

**Who are we?**

**Benefits** | Actively helping conserve local refuges, develop professional skills for future employment, and networking opportunities

Questions? Email us at [volunteer@refugestewards.org](mailto:volunteer@refugestewards.org)

[Fill out the Interest Form to get started](#)

[Gorge Refuge Stewards Website](#)

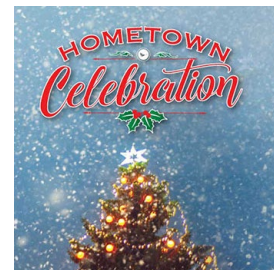
## Birding Enthusiasts



Check out what species

## Ridgefield First Saturdays Hometown Celebration December 2, 2023

Celebrate the Holiday season in the Ridgefield tradition with Hometown Celebration!



Enjoy the hometown holiday spirit of historic Downtown Ridgefield where you will find twinkling lights, decorated businesses, gifts, food, and holiday

are being seen on the Refuge [here](#).

specials.

[See the Full Schedule and details here](#)

## Stay Involved:

### Friends Board Meetings

Join the Friends of Ridgefield NWR Board for their monthly meeting. Meetings start at **5:00 PM** every second Monday of the month and will be virtual through the winter. [Contact us](#) to join in!

#### Board Meeting Dates:

December 12, 2023 (*Note- Moved to Tuesday*)

January 8, 2024

February 12, 2024



### Board Seeking New Members

#### Or, Join a Committee

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](#)

### Become a Business Alliance Member

As a member of the Friends of the RNWR Business Alliance, you invest in one of our urban metropolitan area's most unique and diverse natural and cultural resources. [Find out 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's easy to sign up. [Just click here](#). Or search, Friends of Ridgefield NWR #PK822

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? Or maybe you would like to get 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

### Benefits of Membership



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: Raul Moreno, 2017, 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.

