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Please add contact@ridgefieldfriends.org to your address book or safe senders list.
You are receiving this email because you are either a member or signed up for our mailing list.



image credit: Sandra Michaelis, 2018, 2nd place Plant Life Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | April 2024

Refuge Open Hours: 7:00 am - 7:30 pm

You can enter both RNWR units by paying an Entrance Fee or using an eligible Entrance Pass.

Entrance Fee Options:

- **Pay Daily Entrance Fee - cash or check only.**
 - \$3.00 daily per vehicle, or up to four adults on foot.
- **Purchase An Annual Refuge Pass or applicable Federal Lands Pass.**
 - \$15.00 for an Annual Ridgefield NWR pass
- **Become a Friends Member at \$60 or above.**
 - **Join here!** Opt-in after joining, and an Annual Refuge Pass will be mailed to you.

Entrance Pass Options:

- **Use your Federal Lands Pass.** Check HERE to see the list of eligible passes.
- Note: WA State Discover Passes are *not valid for entry.
- **Details about fees & passes here.**

The Ridgefield NWR Admin Office is open weekdays, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

The office phone number is: 360-887-4106.

-To verify staff availability, please call the office prior to your visit to the Refuge.

-For general inquiries, please call the office between 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

RIVER 'S' UNIT & CARTY UNIT

1071 S Hillhurst AVE

Auto Tour Route

Kiwa Trail

28908 NW Main AVE

Admin Office

Walking Trails

Cathlapotle Plankhouse



Community Nature Center Construction Begins!

Exciting News from Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge!

We're thrilled to announce that construction for the Community Nature Center at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge has officially begun! This means that the parking lot of the Carty Unit may be blocked or limited at times. Make sure to pay attention to temporary directional signage when you visit, and stay tuned for updates about possible closures.

The Friends of Ridgefield NWR invite you to join a community of nature lovers and conservationists in bringing this dream to life. Your financial support is critical in helping us create a space where education, wildlife, and human connection thrive together.

Imagine a place where the rustling leaves are the soundtrack to learning and discovery, where every visit brings a new appreciation for the natural world around us.

[Learn exciting details about the Nature Center HERE.](#) Donate, spread the word, and watch as we build a future where nature is accessible to everyone.



From the Friends Annual Meeting & Spirit of the Wild Awards 2024

FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



The Friends held their Annual Membership & Volunteer Appreciation Meeting on Monday, March 11 at 5 PM, at the Old Liberty Theater this year. Guests were treated to catering from [Killa Bites](#) (bacon-wrapped dates were a big hit) to enjoy while the meeting was conducted.

To start things off, Sam Robinson,

Vice-Chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation, and Tanna Engdahl, Spiritual Leader of the Cowlitz Indian tribe, each gave a welcome blessing and words. The Friends Director of Operations, Samantha Zeiner, presented the [Friends 2023 Annual Report](#) followed by some news about the Refuge, and the Community Nature Center groundbreaking, from Project Leader Juliette Fernandez.

Finally, we topped our evening off with the awarding of our [Annual Spirit of the Wild Award](#), presented by one of its original creators, Tanna Engdahl, to some of the most dedicated and steadfast volunteers at the Refuge, Mel Sanchez, Curt Mohler, and Dave Phelps. We are honored to be able to share with our community their passion and dedication.

Thank you so much to everyone who braved the pouring rain to join us, hear our updates, and support our story.

- [Read Tanna's speech for the awards](#)
- [Friends 2023 Annual Report](#)
- [Community Nature Center Fundraising Guide](#)

From the Contact Station

The Grass is Always Greener Somewhere else

Spring is definitely here. Birds have begun to fly north from the refuge, over the refuge, and to the refuge from the south. You will have noticed that the Swans are gone, except for a couple that are hiding in nooks on some of the lakes. Duck numbers are lower overall. The lovely Cinnamon Teals are showing up in time for nesting and the male Wood Ducks look so fine as they are chasing the females around the ponds and sloughs. There is a lot of singing going on. Wilson's Snipes...[Keep reading...](#)



-Susan Setterberg, Contact Station Volunteer
Cinnamon Teal Duck photo by Susan Setterberg

From the Gorge Refuge Stewards Youth Photo 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
June 2023 - May 2024

3 Prizes in each
category plus a
peoples choice!

Ages 10-18 eligible

Sponsored by:

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Making the Difference!

Aluminum Prints

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS BY
MAY 31, 2024
AT MIDNIGHT

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

refugestewards.org/youthphotocontest

Great contest opportunity for young photographers: enter the Gorge Refuge Stewards Youth Photography Contest! Youth ages 10-18 can enter up to 5 photos in various categories. The pictures **MUST** have been taken at [Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#) between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024.

Deadline for submissions: May 31.

What a great excuse to go to Steigerwald Lake NWR this spring!

(click the flyer to see larger or download)

Birding Enthusiasts



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

Ridgefield First Saturdays Green & Clean April 6, 2024



Help keep our Ridgefield community green and clean by participating in some April First Saturday activities on Saturday, April 6!

[Get the full schedule here](#)

Stay Involved:

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 receive a member card with great discounts at these wonderful local businesses! Feel free to [contact us](#) for any questions or inquiries.

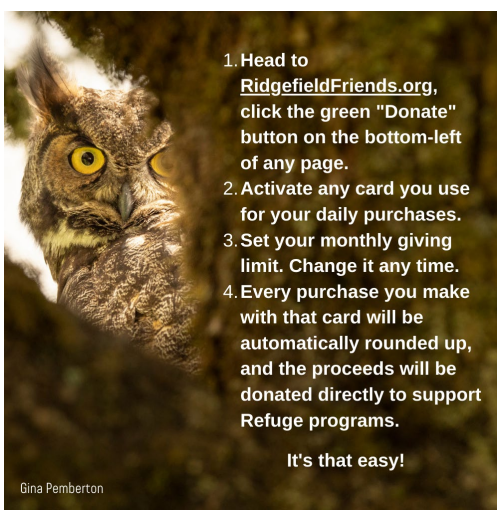
Benefits of Friends Membership



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.

Help Wildlife with your Everyday Purchases

Join a community dedicated to conservation! Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is excited to launch our Round-Up Program - a simple way to support our efforts in preserving the natural beauty and wildlife of the Refuge. Sign up to round up your purchases to the nearest dollar, and make a lasting impact with your spare change. Your small change can lead to big changes in conservation! Every cent counts



Gina Pemberton

1. Head to RidgefieldFriends.org, click the green "Donate" button on the bottom-left of any page.
2. Activate any card you use for your daily purchases.
3. Set your monthly giving limit. Change it any time.
4. Every purchase you make with that card will be automatically rounded up, and the proceeds will be donated directly to support Refuge programs.

It's that easy!

in protecting our precious ecosystems.

Be part of this collective effort and see how together, we can make a difference.

Sign up today and start rounding up for nature!

Donate Your Spare Change

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

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

Friends Online Store



Check out our online store to find the Chinookan Steller's Jay design, BirdFest & Bluegrass button art, and the 2023 Photo Contest winning images, on tote bags, sweatshirts, t-shirts, different mug styles, and photo cards!

Start Shopping

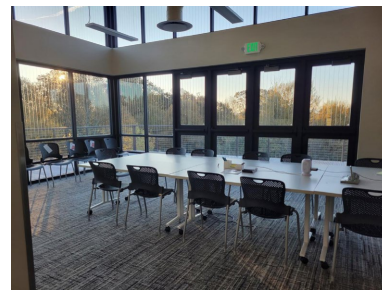
Psst...if you love a good jigsaw puzzle...

Click Here for Puzzles!

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, or in-person with a virtual option. [Contact us](#) to join in!

Board Meeting Dates:
April 8
May 13
June 10



July 8
 August 12
 September 9
 October 15*
 November 11
 December 9
 (*moved due to federal holiday or special circumstance)

Board Seeking New Members Or, Join a Committee

We are always 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](#)

Sponsors:

Business Alliance Members:

In-Kind Support:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners:





**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.

