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Please add [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) to your address book or safe senders list.

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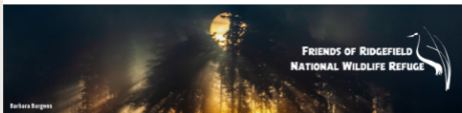


Image credit: Barbara Burgess, 2024, 1st Place, Landscape & Structures Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

## The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates & news | October 2024

The Ridgefield NWR Admin Office is open weekdays, as staff availability allows: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Office phone number: 360-887-4106

[Official Refuge Website](#)

### RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

#### RIVER 'S' UNIT & CARTY UNIT

10715 Hillhurst AVE  
Auto Tour Route  
Kiwa Trail

28800 NW Main AVE  
Admin Office  
Walking Trails  
Cathopatia Plankhouse

## BirdFest & Bluegrass: Ready for Rain, Shine, or Shutdown! & Ridgefield First Saturday

October 4, 2025

### ON THE REFUGE CARTY UNIT EVENTS - FREE!

2025 NW Main Avenue

- 7 AM - Special Guided Hike "Wade to Flight" with Peter Caravaggio**
  - Starting within Peter Caravaggio's view triangle to the art and science of water photography, before you venture through a maze of birds in flight.
- 8 AM - Guided Birding Hike with Ben Deane**
  - Whether you are new to birding or looking to change your skills, we will help you focus on key identification points.
- 9 AM - Opening Meeting with the Clatsop Indian Nation**
  - Join Ben Robinson, Vice-Chairman of the Clatsop Indian Nation, to meet and learn our history.
- 9:30 AM - Peter Caravaggio - Author & Bird Photographer Presentation**
  - Meet bird photographer and environmental Peter Caravaggio as he explains the intriguing world of avian flight. Refreshments including meeting room.
- 10 AM - 12 PM - Explore The Ridgefield-NWR Through Nature**
  - Learn new ways to appreciate and enjoy the beauty of the Refuge through nature photography. You will receive materials. (P. Please bring in spirit.)
- 12 PM - Guiding Hike with Ben Deane**
  - Guided hike through the Refuge for a guided hike that explores the geological history of the Refuge and more low-grass fields carved the landscape.
- 1 PM - The Photo Supply Photography Hike**
  - Limited to 10 participants, no registration required.

9 AM - 2 PM

- Catagopsis Presentation Open - Hosted by Ben Deane 10 AM - 1 PM**
  - Meet local author Ben Deane as he discusses his work in nature and the refuge.
- Photo Supply Ridgefield Refuge Photo Exhibit Window Display**
  - Partner Party: Stay out with some of the partners who make our Refuge work! From Washington Nature Photo Network to a local nature network, it's all here!

**11 AM - 2 PM - Columbia Play Project Wildlife Show**  
Columbia Play Project will be providing nature play activities - free to all ages with a copy left-up, to enlighten natural science with a digital microscope.

11 AM - 2 PM

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Get ready to celebrate! **BirdFest & Bluegrass is this Saturday, October 4, 2025!** This annual event, brought to you in partnership by the City of Ridgefield and the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, celebrates the Refuge, our community, and the beauty of nature. We've ordered nice weather and a crisp fall day, so make sure you've signed up for all registered activities!

We have a plan for a potential government shutdown! While a shutdown will affect access to Refuge areas, all downtown Ridgefield events will be happening as planned. This includes Bluegrass performances, vendors, kids' crafts, and the Pickers Festival! We have backup locations secured for most Refuge activities, so the fun will happen regardless. We will send out email updates and post to our social channels as soon as we can with the necessary location changes.

Sign up for hikes, download the schedule, sign up to volunteer, buy some gear, and more; when you click the button:

[All the Links You Need](#)

The Friends' information booth will be in the Davis Park Vendor Marketplace, at the intersection of Main Ave and Mill St. Stop by and say hi, buy a commemorative Osprey button, and more!

### Thank You, Ridgefield Lions Club!

A massive thank you to the [Ridgefield Lions Club](#) for their generous support as a sponsor of BirdFest & Bluegrass! Events like ours wouldn't be possible without the commitment of dedicated community partners like the Lions. Their support helps us celebrate nature, art, music, and community, ensuring our festival—and the incredible work of the Refuge—continues to thrive. Thank you for your continued partnership!



### Final Trail Warning

Don't forget that BirdFest & Bluegrass is your last chance to walk the seasonal trails, like the [Kiwa and Carty Lake Trails](#), which close as of October 1st. While these trails re-open briefly for BirdFest weekend (if we have refuge access), remember that no walking or getting out of your vehicle is allowed on the River S Unit Auto Tour through the winter season, even on October 4th. Get ready for some fun this Saturday!



### Thank YOU, iQ Credit Union!

We want to send a huge thank you to the [iQ Credit Union \(Ridgefield Branch\)](#) for their generous \$3,000 donation from their Vote for Community Good Program!

This funding provides vital general support for the Friends of the Ridgefield NWR, helping sustain our year-round conservation efforts, fundraising, and outreach. The voting component of this program also connected us with so many new community members through extra outreach, and we are

incredibly grateful for that engagement. We look forward to a continued, thriving partnership!

Image is of Jim M and Sam Z accepting the \$3k check, with our Ridgefield Branch employee partners



### Birding Enthusiasts

Check out what bird species are being seen on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge - both past and current archives - on our website, [here](#).



### A Bee Story: Glitterbugs in the Garden

If you find yourself wandering through your garden or gazing at a catsear (a.k.a. false dandelion) in a dried-up field and spot a tiny, sparkly green creature zipping by—be heartened! You've just encountered the Beyoncé of the bee world: the Agapostemon bee, a lime-green gem of the insect kingdom...[keep reading...](#)

-Anne Bulger, Friends of Ridgefield NWR Board Member, & OSU Master Melittology Lead Instructor for the NWR

### Leave Your Legacy: Buy a Brick!

Looking for a unique way to support the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and become a permanent part of the Ridgefield Refuge story?

By purchasing an engraved brick, you can honor a loved one, or simply cement your dedication to wildlife conservation. Your brick will be installed right at the new Community Nature Center (CNC) Nature Exploration Area, and every dollar goes directly to supporting the essential conservation and education programs of the Friends and these new spaces.

Leave your mark today and help build a lasting foundation for the Refuge!

Learn about the CNC project, and order your brick, today!

Please note: ONLY NAMES will be engraved on the bricks.

## From the Contact Station

See you next month!

-Susan Setterberg, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Contact Station Volunteer

## Stay Involved:

### Join the Friends - Become a Member

Our new membership program means that all members will now receive a digital member card, a free optional tote bag, a sticker, a webstore discount code, and our monthly newsletter!

Members over \$60 also gain access to the Soar into Wellness Program! Soar into Wellness Program could include, at least twice throughout the year:

- Board Member-led hikes
- Friends 'Breathe with the Birds' Yoga in Overlook Park
- Paint Nights with the Ridgefield Art Association
- Coffee Chats, and more



Members giving over \$1000 are also included in a special website highlight!

[Join or Renew Your Membership Today](#)

## Support While You Shop

Whether you're looking for gorgeous nature and wildlife photography on mugs, tote bags, t-shirts, or jigsaw puzzles, gifts for loved ones, or a treat for yourself, we have you covered!

[Main Webstore](#)

[Puzzle Shopping](#)



**Friends Amazon Wishlist**- You can directly support our work and the Refuge's initiatives! Whether it's habitat restoration or BirdFest & Bluegrass, we'll feature items essential to our many efforts toward achieving conservation and community outreach goals. Purchase from our list, and Amazon takes care of the rest! Get started, [HERE](#).



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 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 either virtual or in-person with a virtual option. Please [contact us](#) to find out how to join in!

Board Meeting Dates 2025:

September 15 (invite-only)

\*October 20 (invite-only)

November 10

December 8

\*moved due to a federal holiday or special circumstance



## 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:



[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.



Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge | PO BOX 1022 | Ridgefield, WA 98642 US

NOTE: Unsubscribing will remove you from membership renewal reminder emails as well.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



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