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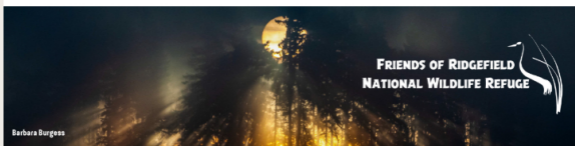


Image credit: Barbara Burgess, 2024, 1st Place, Landscape & Structures Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | September 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

1071 S Hillhurst AVE
Auto Tour Route
Kiwa Trail

2890B NW Main AVE
Admin Office
Walking Trails
Cathlapotle Plankhouse

Why Buy A Brick to support Nature for All?

Stories are at the heart of what we do. Every brick donated to support the Nature Exploration Area is more than just a name—it's a story of connection, love, and community. Because of federal regulations, we can't tell those stories on the bricks themselves, but that doesn't mean they'll be forgotten. We're honored to share one of those stories with you today, a touching tribute that we hope will resonate. We believe that each brick represents a powerful personal story like this one, and together, they create a living legacy that will pave the way for a brighter future at the Refuge.



"We wanted to honor our Friends of Tualatin River NWRC long time volunteer, Sharon Miller with a brick at the new Ridgefield NWRC Visitor Center. Sharon volunteered with Friends of Tualatin River for 18 years. She was among the first group of volunteers who helped to operate our nature store, Nature's Overlook, in our Visitor Center and as our volunteer store manager, oversaw the day to day operation of the store for much of that time. In addition to that, Sharon served on our Board for 15 years as our Secretary. She exemplified the commitment and dedication of Friends members all over the country who help to support National Wildlife Refuges."

-Cheryl Hart, National Wildlife Refuge Association Board member and Secretary & Friends of Tualatin River NWR President

Image: Sharon Miller in the Tualatin River NWR Nature's Overlook Store

[Learn about the CNC project, and order your brick, today!](#)

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

Pro Photo Supply Ridgefield Refuge Photo Contest ends TODAY - September 2, 2025!

This is your final call! Our annual photo contest is closing tonight, September 2, at 11:59 PM PDT.

If you have a stunning photo of wildlife, scenery, or an unforgettable moment from the Refuge, now is the time to share it. Don't let your best shot stay hidden!

This is your opportunity to have your photography featured and to celebrate the beauty of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.



[Click here to submit your photos before the deadline](#)

BirdFest & Bluegrass - October 4, 2025



BirdFest & Bluegrass is just around the corner, and we're so excited to share all the details! *Stay tuned, very soon*, for the full schedule and links to register for our amazing events, from the Nature Journaling Hike to the Art Contest with the Ridgefield Art Association. It's going to be a fun-filled weekend, and we can't wait to see you there!

For those of you eagerly awaiting the Sandhill Crane tours, we want to provide an update. Unfortunately, due to ongoing federal staffing shortages, we will be unable to offer these tours this year. This is a direct result of the challenges our federal partners are facing, and we continue to stand in full support of their efforts.

We know how much this experience means to the community, and we are working hard to bring it back as soon as we are able. In the meantime, the cranes are still here! You can often spot them on the Refuge's River 'S' Unit Auto Tour, especially as more nesting families successfully raise their young. The large flocks tend to arrive just in time for BirdFest & Bluegrass, so be sure to check the Refuge's website for gate times and plan your visit for those peak dawn and dusk hours.

We appreciate your continued support and understanding. Events like BirdFest & Bluegrass are only possible with the dedication of Friends groups, and we are committed to doing the necessary work to restore this experience as soon as we

committed to doing the necessary work to restore this experience as soon as we can. Thank you for your appreciation of our Refuge and what it has to offer.

GiveMore24! - September 25, 2025 Calling All Friends!

A great disturbance in the force... of philanthropy!

This September, the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is excited to join Give More 24!

The adventure begins with Early Giving on September 9th, culminating in the grand finale on September 25th. With your help, we can reach for the stars and support local environmental education and conservation.



And the best part? We have several matching gifts from generous donors, which means your donation could be doubled! Stay tuned for more details on how to maximize your impact and become a true "Osprey Sky Walker"!

May the force (and your generosity!) be with you.

[Give More 24! Campaign Link](#)



From the Contact Station Last Days of Summer

Crane Families! What can I say? I feel like a proud grandparent this year. We spent a lot of time in late spring looking for our nesting cranes. There was the usual dancing followed by nest activities on our Kiwa trail. But there was some other activity with another pair or maybe two, making us speculate that we might have had a second nest somewhere. We never found a second nest. Those cranes are good at hiding when

they want to protect eggs and new colts. But on July 7, across a dwindling Ruddy Lake...[keep reading...](#)

-Susan Setterberg, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Contact Station Volunteer

Image description: Sandhill Crane adult and colt by Pat Snyder

Birding Enthusiasts



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



A Bee Story: Sunflower Bees-Really? Yes!

Sunflower bees are specialist bees, which means these native pollinators emerge from their nests when sunflowers are in bloom. Perfect timing, right? These sunflower crops are well served by their most common pollinator...[keep reading...](#)

PLUS, use the link to find a bonus story about a special sighting at the refuge!

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

Ridgefield First Saturday Multicultural Festival Saturday, September 6, 2025



Come celebrate our diverse community at the 8th annual Multicultural Festival on Saturday, September 6. Check out the non-profit organization [Ridgefield Multicultural Initiative](#) and learn their mission, history, and HUGE part in this event. The 2025 Multicultural Festival theme is Fun & Games! The festival will include performances, crafts and activities, First Saturday and Farmers Market vendors, and more!

The Friends will be hosting a booth in the marketplace, stop by and say hi!

[September First Saturday Details](#)

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](#)



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:

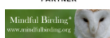
In-Kind Support:



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.

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