

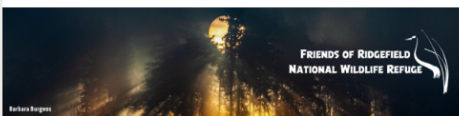
[View as Webpage](#)Please add [contact@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:contact@ridgefieldfriends.org) to your address book or safe senders list.  
You are receiving this email because you are either a member or signed up for our mailing list.

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

## The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates &amp; news | November 2024

The Ridgefield NWR Admin Office is closed until further notice due to a lack of federal appropriations. The Refuge is open to visit during daylight hours.

### RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

1071 S Hillhurst AVE  
Auto Tour Route  
Klee Trail28900 NW Main AVE  
Admin Office  
Walking Trails  
Cathlamet Plankhouse

### [Official Refuge Website](#)

### Action Alert: End the Shutdown and Support Refuge Operations!

The government shutdown continues to impact the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. The essential functions that keep the refuge running are completely frozen. This means all Refuge offices are closed, and our dedicated staff is unable to perform critical work.

Every day the shutdown lasts, essential functions—like conservation management, resource monitoring, facility maintenance, and educational programming—are halted. Furthermore, all volunteer activities have stopped, and our committed Refuge staff face increasing financial uncertainty. This is not sustainable for the future health of the Refuge.

**Keep Reading:** [What You Can Do Right Now...](#)



### From the Friends Welcome Jean Stemp to the Board

Jean is very excited to be the newest Board Member of the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Growing up, she and her family spent their vacations camping at places up and down the West Coast, instilling in her a deep appreciation for nature. She moved to Ridgefield four years ago and has taken every person who has come to visit her to the Refuge to show off this incredible gem just down the road from her home. She's committed to protecting our environment and educating anyone who will listen about the beauty and importance of our natural habitats.

Jean brings to the Board her experience from a career in the software industry that includes project management, writing, editing, education, and more, as well as years of volunteering for animal welfare and education organizations. You'll often see her walking around Ridgefield in her neighborhood, downtown, or at the Refuge. Feel free to stop and say hi if you see her!

[Learn More About Our Board](#)

### Leave Your Legacy: Buy a Brick - Sale Extended!

**Great News:** We've extended the brick sale! The sale will now continue until we hit our goal, so don't delay! Get your orders in before it's truly too late!

By purchasing an engraved brick, you can honor a loved one, or simply cement your dedication to wildlife conservation. Your personalized brick will be installed right at the new [Community Nature Center \(CNC\) Nature Exploration Area](#).

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.



### Your 2026 Calendar is Here!

Give the gift of the Refuge all year long! Our beautiful 2026 Calendar is here, featuring the stunning winning photography from the Pro Photo Supply Ridgefield NWR Photo Contest. More than just gorgeous wildlife art, each month is packed with must-know Refuge dates, fun facts, and important information. It's the perfect gift for every friend or family member

who loves the great outdoors and supports the Friends of Ridgefield NWR. Don't wait—order today and make sure your loved ones have the Refuge on their walls! More items coming soon.

[Order Your Calendar Now!](#)

### BirdFest & Bluegrass 2025 A Huge Success!

We are still on cloud nine after a successful BirdFest & Bluegrass on October 4th! Thank you to the thousands of community members who came out to explore the trails, enjoy the markets, and listen to the incredible music. Your enthusiasm for the art, conservation, and the atmosphere made the day a true celebration. It was wonderful to see downtown Ridgefield and the Refuge energized by so many dedicated families and friends.



*Image is of a child and their completed toilet paper roll craft binoculars (well, actually a tri-nocular? There are three tubes, ha!)*



This event is a true community effort, and we owe a massive debt of gratitude to everyone who made it possible: every musician who filled the air with bluegrass; the [City of Ridgefield](#) for their essential partnership; the [amazing Vendor Marketplace](#) and [Children's Entrepreneur Market](#); all participating Ridgefield businesses that welcomed our guests; the [Ridgefield Art Association](#) for running a spectacular [art contest](#); all of our conservation partners and hike leaders who shared their knowledge; the dedicated [Refuge](#) staff (doing what they could before the shutdown); the Friends Board of Directors; and the generous [Ridgefield Lions Club](#) for their sponsorship!

A final, heartfelt thank you goes to our volunteers! Whether you were involved in planning and outreach or showed up during the festival at the Refuge and downtown, your gracious support—from setup to cleanup—ensured the day ran smoothly despite any logistical challenges. Thank you for making this festival a cornerstone of our community!

Image is of the Phoenix Duo bluegrass band playing on the Overlook Park stage during BirdFest & Bluegrass 2025

## From a Contact Station Furloughed Volunteer: *Bummer*

So, what do the volunteers do when the government shuts down? Those of us from the Contact Station have been seen on the River 5 at odd times lately. We are furloughed too, you see. So, we can't wear a volunteer name tag, hat, or vest, or enter...[keep reading...](#)



-Susan Setterberg, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Contact Station Volunteer...again soon, hopefully.

### 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: As Fall Settles In, Don't Forget the Native Bees

With fall in the air and winter just around the corner, it's tempting to hang up the gardening gloves and welcome the seasonal break. Out of sight, out of mind—right?

But while your garden may...[keep reading...](#)

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



### Ridgefield First Saturday November Make a Difference Month

Get involved in your community to Make a Difference! Connect with non-profits, develop positive community habits, practice kindness and be a part of what makes Ridgefield unique.

[Learn More](#)

## Stay Involved:

### Join the Friends - Become a Member

Our new membership program means that all members will receive a digital member card, a free optional tote bag, a sticker, and more!

Members over \$60 also gain access to the Soar into Wellness Program, & Members giving over \$1000 are also included in a special website highlight!



[Learn More, 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:

November 10  
December 8

### 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.



