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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: Raul Moreno, 2017, 2nd Place, Adult Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates & news | January 2026

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

Office phone number: 360-887-4106

Refuge Operation Notice:

NOTE: Impacts like down trees or other unplanned occurrences may not be announced on the websites immediately. Website updates are subject to staff availability on site.

River S/Auto Tour Route:

Rough road due to potholes. Road will be fixed when conditions are right for road grading. Stay tuned to the website for closure announcements during that work.

Construction on the water pump system in the closed area will occasionally create increased traffic on the autotour route entrance. Please do not stop to watch wildlife on the entrance road and make sure to fully pull to the side of the road anytime you are viewing wildlife on the loop.

Learn More: [Official Refuge Website](#)

RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

RIVER 'S' UNIT & CARTY UNIT

1071 S Hillhurst Ave

Auto Tour Route

Kiva Trail

28988 NW Main Ave

Admin Office

Walking Trails

Cathlapotle Plankhouse

From the Friends



As we approach the end of 2025, one simple truth remains: Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge belongs to all of us.

It is your nature next door—a wildlife-first public land right here in our community. Whether it's the thrill of a child seeing a Bald Eagle for the first time or watching Tundra Swans glide across the water, this Refuge provides a front-row seat to the wild.

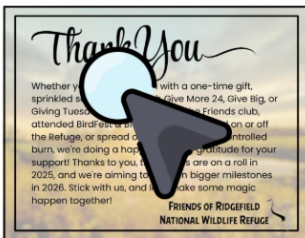
Ridgefield is special because it protects a unique piece of the Columbia River floodplain. From the ancient trees on the [Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail](#) to the winding path of the [River S Unit Auto Tour](#), it is a vital stretch of habitat where Cackling Geese and Sandhill Cranes still find a home. It's the place many of us go when the world feels too loud and we simply need room to breathe.

Whether you explored the Auto Tour for the first time this year, volunteered your time with the Friends, or found a quiet moment of peace on a trail, you are part of this landscape. These lands remain ours to protect, together.

Thank you for being part of the Ridgefield NWR community this year.

-Samantha Zeiner, Director of Operations, Friends of Ridgefield NWR

Gif image is of male and female Sandhill Cranes dancing, by Jackie Follett



[Click to view the Flipbook of our 2025 Members, Donors, and more](#)

Leave Your Legacy: Brick Sale Updates Coming Soon

Brick sales officially end at midnight on December 31! This is your final chance to [leave your legacy](#) before it's gone!

Thank you all so much to those who participated in our Buy-A-Brick Fundraiser!

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to begin work on the [Nature Exploration Area](#), which will be attached to the north end of the new Community Nature Center building. This area will create a seamless, nature-integrated entrance for students and visitors alike as they arrive. The future site of our brick installation will be prominently placed near the Community Nature Center entrance sign. Along with the bricks, a small interpretive sign will explain the purpose and significance of these special tributes.

Brick purchasers will receive detailed updates via email in the coming months, and we will continue to share our progress right here in the newsletter. Be sure to check your inbox—and your spam folder—to stay informed!



[Get Your Brick Now!](#)

Buy Your 2026 Calendar

Didn't find a 2026 Calendar under the tree?

If Santa missed your wish list this year, don't worry—we've got you covered! Our 2026 Ridgefield NWR Calendar features stunning winning



Images from the Pro Photo Supply Photo Contest, showcasing the incredible wildlife and landscapes of the Refuge.



Beyond the beautiful photography, it's packed with fun facts and all the key Refuge dates you'll need to plan your 2026 visits. Pick one up today and keep the Refuge on your wall all year long!

[Order Your Calendar Now!](#)



[We've added more to our online store!](#)

Have you ever been on the refuge and thought to yourself, "Man, I just love to see those bird rears up in the air when they dabble!"? Then you better check out our new webstore items, including our fresh "I Like Bird Butts" merch and the groovy "Dancing Queen" Sandhill Crane gear! Whether you want breathtaking photos or a good laugh, we have the perfect gift for every nature lover.

[Shop Our Merch Store](#)

From the Contact Station Swans in Abundance

One Friday morning in mid-December, as I was driving over the bridge to the contact station, I was astounded to see an abundance of big white birds in Long Lake, the sliver of water west of the Contact Station along the tree line. I stopped for a moment to enjoy the beautiful view. Later that afternoon, having heard comments from so many visitors about the huge numbers of swans...[keep reading...](#)



-Susan Setterberg, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Contact Station Volunteer

Image of swans by Susan Setterberg

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: What Bees Teach Us About Rest

Rest is not absence. It is preparation.

During the winter months, bees do not disappear. They are waiting.

Learning to wait is a difficult human skill. Children struggle to wait to grow older; adults struggle to wait their turn, to wait in line. Yet research shows that developing the ability...[keep reading...](#)

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

Image of Leafcutter Bee (*Megachile*): Cocoons of bees wrapped in pieces of leaf (Credit: [Crown Bees](#))



Ridgefield First Saturday Rest & Recharge January, 2026

Welcome to Rest and Recharge Month! This is the perfect time to relax, rejuvenate, and focus on your well-being. Join us throughout the month as we explore a variety of

activities designed to help you unwind, connect, and embrace a slower pace.

[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

If you're looking for gorgeous nature and wildlife photography on jigsaw puzzles, we have you covered!

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 2026:](#)
January 12, 2026 - closed meeting
February 9, 2026



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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