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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.

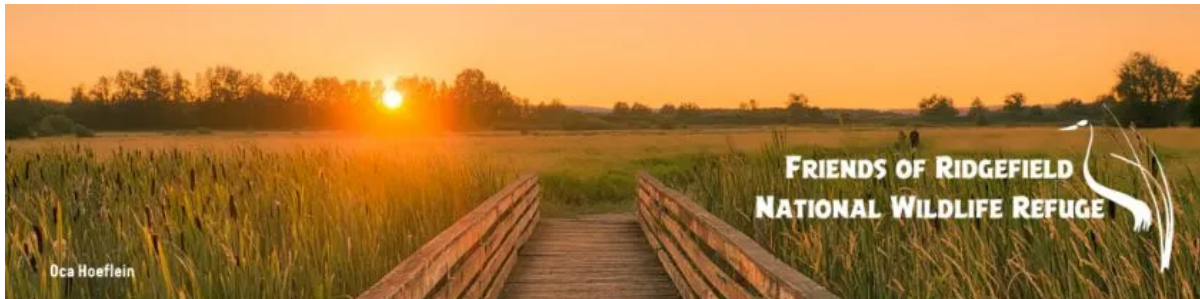


Image credit: Oca Hoeflein, 2018, 2nd Place, Landscape Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates & news | July 2026

Get ready, it's a long one, but worth it!

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

Office phone number: 360-887-4106

Community Nature Center Hours:

Check the [events](#) page for when you can visit the new building.

Hours and times for the Community Nature Center and the Office will vary over the next few months as we transition to offering this new experience at the Refuge. The staff of the Refuge and the Friends appreciate your patience.

Learn More: [Official Refuge Website](#)

RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

RIVER 'S' UNIT & CARTY UNIT

1071 S Hillhurst AVE
Auto Tour Route
Photography Blind
Kiwa Trail

28908 NW Main AVE
Administration Office
Community Nature Center
Walking Trails
Cathlapotle Plankhouse

Raptor's Baseball Night

THIS THURSDAY - JULY 2!

50% of all ticket sales through **OUR LINK ONLY** will be split with us!

Last chance to help the Friends, support a good cause, and enjoy summer baseball as the Ridgefield Raptors take on the NW Star Nighthawks!



Get Your Tickets Now!

Gratitude in Action: Thank You to Our Supporters!

Our community is growing stronger every day, thanks to the incredible generosity of our local partners and friends. We want to extend a huge thank you to our recent donors who are helping us thrive:

- [Public Lands Alliance](#) – For their generous gift of a scholarship membership.
- [ilani Casino & Resort](#) – For making waves as an official BirdFest & Bluegrass Sponsor.
- [The Cowlitz Tribal Foundation](#) – Awarded by the Cowlitz Tribe, for investing in our future with an education and capacity grant.
- [Allen House Bed & Brunch](#) – Our warmest welcome to our newest Business Alliance Member!

Every gift fuels our mission and connects our community more deeply to nature. We couldn't do this without you!

Volunteer with the Friends

We are looking for folks to assist with tabling during **Ridgefield Fourth of July First Saturday** on **July 4**, and at **National Night Out**, in Abrams Park, on **August 8**.

Sign Up Today!



We need members and supporters willing to put on a metaphorical Friends volunteer hat, and help us spread the word about memberships, sponsorships, business perks, and all the work the Friends are doing in the new Community Nature Center! No experience required; we can work with you to get started.

Ridgefield First Saturday

Fourth of July

July 4, 2026



Join us in Ridgefield, Washington, for a spectacular 4th of July celebration filled with parades, live entertainment, delicious food, and unforgettable fun!

Find the Friends celebrating in the vendor marketplace, and say hi!

Check out the [schedule!](#)

Community Nature Center Ribbon Cutting Success



On May 3, 2026, we officially celebrated a monumental milestone with the ribbon-cutting ceremony for our brand-new **Community Nature Center at the Carty Unit!** Bringing together tribal nations, federal agencies, local leaders, and our incredible community, the grand opening marked a beautiful renewal of our shared connection to the land and each other.

More than just a building, this space stands as a vibrant educational hub and a welcoming gateway to the natural world—co-created *with* and for the community to inspire wildlife stewardship for generations to come.

For now, we ask that you check the [events](#) page for when you can visit the new building. Over the summer, hours for the Community Nature Center will vary. The staff of the Refuge and the Friends truly appreciate your patience while we grow.

Thank You, Stacy!

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge would like to thank **Stacy Mueller** for her time and commitment as a Board member. Stacy joined the Board in January of 2025 and has been an active participant with the Friends...[keep reading...](#)



July Friends Member Wellness Event



Friends Members, make sure you check your inboxes for the official invite to our next Member Wellness Event, partnered with the City of Ridgefield **Dragon Boats, on July 19!**

Join or Renew at \$60 or more to join us!

Not a Member of the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge yet? Or maybe you didn't get the email? Join or Renew, at the \$60 level or higher to be invited to this and future free membership engagement.

Pro Photo Supply Ridgefield NWR Updated & Fledgling Photo Contests

Only one month left to submit your Ridgefield Refuge photos in various categories for a chance to win prizes from **Pro Photo Supply** and Friends of Ridgefield NWR! This year, our 'Youth' category was changed to High School, and we added the **Fledgling Contest** (thanks to a sponsorship from [ASMP Oregon](#)) for grades 4-8!



Submissions Due: August 3, 2026

Find Both Contests Here!

Winners of both contests will be able to view their photo prints at [BirdFest & Bluegrass](#), Saturday, October 3, 2026!

Free Workshop Series Continues!



FREE Workshop at the Carty Unit!

Writers Workshop

August 1, 10 AM

Join Susan Dingle, current Clark County Poet Laureate, for a relaxing and reflective 1.5 hours on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Walk the trails and use the time to write, draw, brainstorm, or however else you'd like to interact with the written word. Susan will lead the group through writing practices as you enjoy the beauty of summer at the Refuge. No experience or previous writing required, all ages welcome.

Space is limited, so be sure to click the button or [visit the website](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield/visit-us/activities/education-programs) to sign up today!

[Sign Up Here](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield/visit-us/activities/education-programs)

BirdFest & Bluegrass

October 3, 2026

Sponsorships

Sponsor BirdFest & Bluegrass, our annual festival celebrating the Refuge, wildlife, and our community!



Partner Party

The BirdFest & Bluegrass Partner Party on October 3, 2026, brings together our support community and Refuge visitors.

We invite nonprofits and community partners to join us for an **educational, non-retail celebration** of local wildlife, habitat conservation, and the groups helping protect the Refuge.

[Sponsorship Details](#)

[Sign Up Today!](#)

Birding Enthusiasts

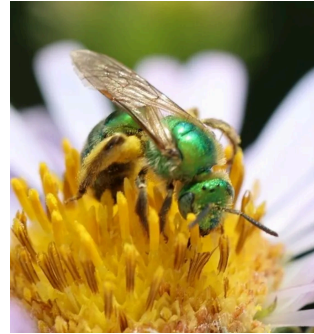


Check out what bird species are being seen on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge - both past and current archives - on our website.

Bird Sightings

A Bee Story

The Sting Misunderstanding



"I've been stung before."
I hear that comment a lot when I talk about bees. My response is usually, "By what?"
Most people are surprised to learn...[keep reading...](#)

-Anne Bulger, Friends of RNWR Board Member, & OSU Master Melittology Lead Instructor for the RNWR Complex
Image of Native Fine Striped Sweat Bee by [la4bonte/iNaturalist](#)

Stay Involved:

Join the Friends - Become a Member

All members will receive a digital member card, a free optional tote bag, a sticker, and other perks.

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



Get the whole family geared up and support Refuge conservation with every purchase.

[Shop our Merch Store](#)

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

[Puzzle Shopping](#)



When you link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Friends, you help us earn donations from Fred Meyer Community Rewards. It's easy! Search Friends of Ridgefield NWR, #PK822

[Get Started](#)



[Friends Amazon Wishlist](#) - Support our work and the Refuge's initiatives! Whether it's habitat restoration or BirdFest & Bluegrass, we'll feature items essential to efforts toward achieving conservation and community outreach goals.

[Get Shopping!](#)

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:

- July 13 - *virtual only, please contact us for the Zoom link.*
- August 10
- September 14
- *October 19
- November 9
- December 14

*moved due to a federal holiday or Board decision



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





More Ways to Help

Want more updates on Refuge events & happenings? Follow the Friends on social media or our website by clicking the logos below! Stay connected when you're off the Refuge.



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