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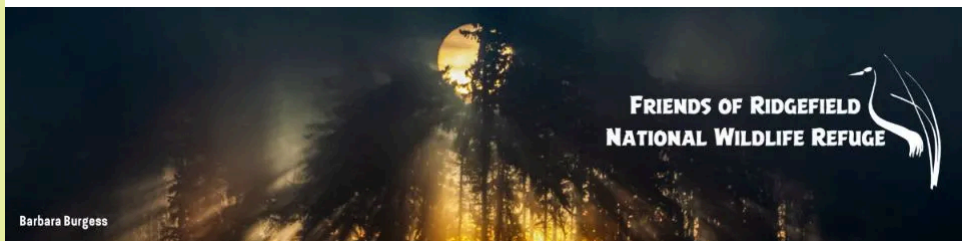


Image credit: Barbara Burgess, 2024, 1st Place, Landscape Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates & news | October 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

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

BirdFest & Bluegrass - Ridgefield First Saturday

October 3, 2026

The festival to celebrate our beautiful Wildlife Refuge and our amazing community is finally here!

Whether you're ready to tap your toes to bluegrass music, take a guided hike, make some crafts, vote in an art contest, learn from Refuge partners, or shop from a wide variety of vendors, there is something for everyone in Ridgefield on Saturday, October 3!

Parking details and maps, schedule downloads, and links to all our partners can be found in one place. Expanded details can be found on our websites. Click the button below to plan your day. See you there!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

PARKING
Parking options include:

- Carty Unit
- Greedy Ridge Elementary
- Along Railroad AVE to Main St
- Greedy Farming
- Ridgefield Waterfront

Catch a C-Train shuttle to Downtown at the Carty Unit. Wheelchair accessible. Service ends at 2 PM.

DOWNTOWN RIDGEFIELD

ALL DAY
Bluegrass Jamming

9 AM - 2 PM
Kids Market
First Saturday Vendors & Family Crafts and Activities (Friends Booth)

11 AM - 9 PM
Bluegrass Performances

FREE TO VISIT - SEASONAL TRAILS WILL BE OPEN!

ON THE REFUGE

9 AM - 2 PM

- Opening Blessing @ 9 AM
- Self-Guided Wander Walks all day
- Hourly guided walks and talks on a variety of topics, including Family-Friendly Carty Trail Discoveries, and Geology with Jim Maul
- Partner Party! Check out over 13 partner organizations and businesses who help support the Refuge.
- Nature Art Contest with Ridgefield Art Association
- Family Activities & Crafts
- Pro Photo Supply Winning Photo Contest Display (incl Fledgling!)

28908 N Main Ave - Carty Unit

1071 S Hillhurst RD - River 'S' Unit Auto Tour

9 AM - 1 PM

- Spotting Scopes w/Vancouver Audubon

9 AM & 11 AM

- Vancouver Audubon Family Birding Hikes on the Kiwa Trail

15.00
RED-WINGED BLACKBERRY
BUTTERY POP PANCAKES

- BEANUTY COFFEE
- BACKLASH BOO TRAP (VANCOUVER)

EVENT DETAILS

[BirdFest & Bluegrass Links](#)

For the first time ever, our Photo Contest Winner Calendars will be available for purchase at BirdFest & Bluegrass! Just \$20 - find them at our Davis Park booth, or head to the Carty Unit to pick one up and view the winning image gallery! While supplies last. Or order online, today!



The 2026 Red-winged Blackbird commemorative buttons are \$5.00 at the businesses below now and at the Friends info booth in Davis Park during BirdFest & Bluegrass! While supplies last.

- [Backyard Bird Shop Vancouver](#)
- [Seasons Coffee, Tea & Remedies in the Old Liberty Theater](#)



[Order Online](#)

Share your photos with us on social media by tagging the Friends. We are on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [Threads](#), and [BlueSky](#)!

Last Chance to submit to the Refuge Art Contest!

Contest entries will be on view for voting at [BirdFest & Bluegrass](#), Saturday, October 3, 2026!

This contest, a partnership between The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Ridgefield Art Association, is open to bird-loving visual artists of all ages and skill levels.

We invite submissions of bird-themed artwork, particularly featuring species found within the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

We welcome the following age categories:

- **Hatchling:** K-4th grade
- **Nestling:** 5th-8th grade
- **Fledgling:** 9th-12th grade
- **Adult:** 18+

To enter, each participant must fill out all items on the entry form.

Submissions Due: September 30, 2026 - Start Here >>

Drop-Off: October 2, 2026



entry form link:

www.ridgefieldartassociation.com/birdfest-art-contest



- **Submission deadline Sept. 30th**
- Drop off your work on Oct 2nd at the Ridgefield Refuge Community Nature Center (Carty Unit) between 11am-3pm
- Pick up your work Thursday Oct 8th between 11am-3pm

PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES FOR ALL AGE GROUP WINNERS!



Your artwork will be displayed at the Ridgefield Refuge Community Nature Center (Carty Unit) Oct 3rd during the Ridgefield Birdfest & Bluegrass Event.

Volunteer with the Friends

We are looking for folks to assist during events, like [BirdFest & Bluegrass](#), on October 3!

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 on the Refuge!

Storytime at the Refuge



FAMILY STORYTIME

10:30 - 11:00 AM

Put on your adventure boots and join your Ridgefield Community Library pals at the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge** for Storytime! The shiny new Community Center will welcome curious wanderers from 10 AM to 12 PM. And don't forget, the trails are calling for some daytime exploring fun!

**SEPTEMBER 3
SEPTEMBER 17
OCTOBER 1
OCTOBER 15
NOVEMBER 12**



**Ridgefield Refuge's Carty Unit
28908 NW Main Ave, Ridgefield, WA**

www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

This event is provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service in collaboration with our partners, the Friends of Ridgefield NWR, and is committed to providing access to all. Please direct all requests for accommodations to Josie_Fairley@fws.gov 360-887-4206, TTY: 360-887-6339

(click to view or download PDF)

October 1
October 15
November 12
10:30-11:00 AM

Put on your adventure boots and join your Ridgefield Community Library pals at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge for Storytime! The shiny new Community Nature Center will welcome curious wanderers from 10AM to 12PM, with a library-led storytime from 10:30-11:00.

The trails are also always calling for some daytime exploring fun! No need to sign up, just drop on by!

Event & Refuge Details

Free Community Workshop

Mason Bees Unwrapped: The Art & Science of Cocoon Harvesting
November 14, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Discover the world of native Mason bees with Master Gardener and Master Melittologist Anne Bulger! Learn about their unique life cycle, peek inside nesting tubes, and watch a live demo on harvesting and cleaning cocoons to protect these pollinators from winter pests and diseases. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced host, you'll leave with practical tips to help native bees.



FREE! COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SERIES

at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Carty Unit

For all People in the Community! enjoy free snacks, dive back into learning, and celebrate this beautiful corner of the earth live on.

Mason Bees Unwrapped: The Art & Science of Cocoon Harvesting

Discover the fascinating world of native Mason bees with Master Gardener and Master Melittologist Anne Bulger. Learn why these gentle pollinators are so valuable, explore their unique life cycle, and find out what is hidden inside their nesting tubes. Anne will demonstrate how to harvest and clean Mason bee cocoons—an important step in helping reduce pests and diseases while supporting healthy bee populations through the fall and winter. Whether you're just getting started or already hosting Mason bees, you'll leave with practical tips and a greater appreciation for these remarkable native pollinators.

11/14 10-11:30am

Location: Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Community Nature Center | 28908 NW Main Ave., Ridgefield, WA
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield/esr-ca/activities/education/programs>

This event is provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service in collaboration with our partners, the Friends of Ridgefield NWR, and is committed to providing access to all. Please direct all requests for accommodations to Josie_Fairley@fws.gov 360-887-4206, TTY: 360-887-6339

Click to view PDF

Mason Bees Unwrapped
Sign Up

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

Build a Bee Garden, One Season at a Time



October may seem like an odd time to think about bees. The buzz of summer is quieting, flowers are fading, and many of the native bees we...[keep reading...](#)

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

Image of Yellow Monkeyflower

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.

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

More coming this fall!

Shop our Merch Store

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:

- *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

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