

**FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ANNUAL REPORT
2023**

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE
A YEAR MAKES**

A Special Donor Thank You from the Friends of the Refuge

As a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Organization we could not accomplish the things that you will read about in this report without the continued generous support of our Friends members, Volunteers, Community partners, Foundations, Donors and US Fish and Wildlife Service. We deeply appreciate the support we receive. Your support directly allows us to achieve our Mission of supporting the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. This year we added our first ever large scale benefit for the Friends, the Brews for the Birds Beer & Music Festival, as a way to help diversify our fundraising efforts. This coming year the Friends will continue to find new and effective ways to raise funds and awareness for this outstanding organization and the beloved Refuge Complex we support. We welcome our members and the community to continue help us with their financial support that allows the Friends to do what we do best -Joyfully Connecting Our Community with the Wonder of the Refuge.

Thank you,

Bonnie Anderson, Executive Director

Please turn to page 18 for the list of Special Donors



SPECIAL REPORT: Board Members

2023-24	2024-25	2025-2026
Alan Christensen (3)	Dawn Carovano (3)	Cheryl Hart (3)
Tom Hartz (3)	Willem Stoeller (3)	Keith Mays (3)
Phyllis Millan (2)		
Tom Stibolt (2)		
Izzy Sigrist (1)		
Laura Hartt (1)		* () number of 3 year terms elected to serve since bylaw change 2016

2023 Annual Report

Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

President's Message - Cheryl Hart

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES...

In so many ways, it hardly seems possible that it has been only a year since our last celebration of Friends members at the Annual Meeting. During that year, our 30th Anniversary Year, so much has happened!

The Visitor Center (VC) is open regular hours 6 days a week and we have a large group of volunteers, some long-time and some new, to staff it (but there is always room for more). Nature's Overlook, the store in the VC, is operated by Friends and helps to provide funding to support many of the projects and programs you will read about in this Annual Report.

We have formed an amazing partnership with Langer's Entertainment Center in Sherwood. This started with them naming us as a beneficiary of one of their "Make a Difference Mondays," when all proceeds from bowling and shoe rental came to the Friends. We appreciate the support of our many members who came in and bowled a few lines or just met up with friends for an enjoyable evening.

That event grew into their sponsorship of our Brews for Birds event, held the first weekend in August. This beer and music festival exceeded our wildest dreams to have a fun off-refuge event as a fundraiser. If you missed it, don't despair, we plan to make this an annual event and Langer's is on board for an even bigger and better B4B in 2024.

After many years of effort, the new Wapato Lake NWR, which is part of our complex now, was opened to the public. This resulted in two events at the Refuge in Gaston, first an Opening Ceremony and later a Welcoming Ceremony. We were joined by many of our conservation partners including Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, I'm Hooked, Access Recreation, Hunters of Color, ODF&W R3 Program, Clean Water Services, Oregon Chinese Coalition, Gaston Fire Department, and Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District to celebrate the welcoming of the public to this Refuge.

Our staff had some changes as well. Bonnie Anderson, Friends Executive Director, completed a Certificate in Nonprofit Fundraising which she immediately put to

good use to our benefit. Also, Carly Hirschmann left to join former Friends employee Rachel Dunham at Xerces Society. Carly was followed in the Restoration and Habitat Specialist position here by Bella Padgett, who hit the ground running and hasn't stopped. Not only has she taken on the Second Saturday Work Parties and many other tasks, but she also oversaw the planting of six new pollinator gardens.



Some new programming is being developed—Building a Bigger Basket by welcoming underserved communities to the Refuge with special activities planned by and with them. So far, the Refuge has hosted the Oregon Chinese Coalition, the LGBTQ Community, and the Latino/Hispanic Community, and more opportunities are in the planning stages. In addition, Board member Alan Christensen has lined up a fall/winter speaker series beginning with Dan Edge,

OSU Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Ecology who will talk about 40 Years of Change in the conservation field. Friends members will have the first opportunity to reserve a space for each speaker.

If that isn't enough change for one year, we have a black swan making the Refuge its home, and the Friends had a Trumpeter Swan that was found dead on the Refuge taxidermized and it is now displayed in the Visitor Center.

...OR NOT

But even amid so much change, some things remain the same. Much loved programs like Creatures of the Night and Puddle Stompers have returned. The second annual Oregon Chinese Coalition art contest, with a theme of "Picture Yourself in Nature," brought over 50 submissions of outstanding student art. Volunteers for "Friday with the Friends" at Greenway Elementary School in Beaverton are greeted with unbridled enthusiasm by the students. As part of our program with both Greenway and with Sherwood Schools, local students are the recipients of items donated by our Nature's Overlook customers during the holiday season. We've begun meeting with a group of bright, energetic, and enthusiastic students from area schools who are planning the second Youth Climate Summit at the Refuge next spring. Another of our partners, Sherwood

ADVOCACY CHAMPIONS: Tonquin Quarry Update

Submitted by Alan Christensen, Friends Board Member

The “paper trail” continues to lengthen on the proposed quarry located at the edge of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (TRNWR) Rock Creek Unit. In January 2022, the Department of State Lands (DSL) issued a proposed permit decision to Tonquin Holdings, LLC to develop a quarry immediately adjacent to wetlands of the Refuge in the Rock Creek watershed. In a nutshell the proposal is to create a hole nearly 250 feet deep and remove over 6 million cubic yards of material over a period of about 20 years. One can stand with a foot in water on the Refuge and the other foot in water on the proposed project lands. The hydrology of Rock Creek was influenced by the Missoula floods when the huge water flows were backed up into the Willamette Valley and massive vortexes permanently affected the flow of groundwater in the area. The result was the Tonquin Geological Area, and the wetlands are located within this identified unique landscape.

The permit was issued nearly a decade after it was first proposed, despite ongoing challenges from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Of particular note in the permit is the absence of review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under their Section 404 Wetlands responsibilities. Generally, the Corps would have a significant role in such proposals, but changes to the definition of wetlands under the Trump Administration left the Corps out of the process during the period when action on the permit occurred.

The FWS has mounted strong challenges to the permit over the past 18 months with detailed personal testimony and technical information. The FWS feels that expert testimony and significant technical information on the unique hydrology, the unproven effectiveness of proposed mitigation and the potential impacts to the Refuge have not received the analysis that is warranted and have largely been dismissed in responses from the DSL. The “paper trail” referenced is voluminous and detailed. The most recent challenge to the permit was placed in June of this year, and to date the DSL has not responded to issues raised in that challenge.

During this past 18 months, Friends have been involved in efforts to alert and inform elected Oregon officials in national office. Field trips to the proposed project site involving Senator Merkley’s local staffer, Mitra Anoushiravani, and visits to the Refuge by Representative Bonamici have allowed Friends to talk directly to them about their concerns.

Friends continue to seek ways to address the project including contact with legal experts to dig deeper into the legal/technical issues. A recent Supreme Court decision allowed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to bring some clarity to the definition of wetlands which may alter the legal landscape for actual implementation of the permit. It seems clear that the proposal will have large and lasting effects on the Refuge wetlands, so a continued effort by Friends is important.

President’s Message, continued from page 1

Rotary Club, helps to support and volunteer at this event.

But not all that is continuing to happen is so positive. National Wildlife Refuges nationwide are woefully understaffed and underfunded. Service staff struggles everyday with decisions that must be made, sometimes not based on the best science and ecology but on what can be managed with available staff and funding. At the national level, National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) and Coalition of Refuge Friends and Advocates (CORFA) have embarked on a focused campaign to adequately fund and staff our National Wildlife Refuge System but we recognize this will be a long uphill battle.

On the local level, the precious hydrology of several units of the Refuge is threatened by the permitting of a gravel quarry next to the Rock Creek Unit of the Refuge. We are

working with the City of Sherwood, other conservation organizations, and our Federal Delegation to keep this quarry from destroying that hydrology.

If all of this sounds like a lot, it is! We desperately need more of you to volunteer to strengthen and support Friends. We are always on the lookout for volunteers with a few extra hours to help with the many tasks that are involved in running a nonprofit organization like ours. Join a committee, edit the monthly newsletter, or make a donation. I hope you will read the Annual Report and come across at least one item that causes you to pause and say, “I’d like to help with that.” Then, pick up your phone or send us an email or text to let us know. Tell us what strikes you as important and we’ll let you know how YOU can make a difference. THANK YOU!!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, FOR Executive Director

Thirty years as the Friends group supporting the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex says a lot about the quality of our organization and the dedication of our Board of Directors and Friends' members. It also speaks volumes about the close and collaborative relationship between US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Friends.

Looking back over that time, so many monumental moments have occurred. A few events that stand out include the unique way that our Refuge was founded by a group of local citizens with a vision to set aside land to be designated as a National Wildlife Refuge. A special thank you to Tom Stibolt and Lisa Brenner and their generous donation of the original acres that established the Refuge, and to the hardy volunteers who spent countless hours conducting restoration work on the different units that transformed and restored the land. The Friends have made multiple trips to "The Hill" to advocate for government funding of our spectacular Visitor Center. These are just a few of the highlights that make us proud.

The 30th Anniversary party this summer provided an excellent opportunity for all of us to gather and celebrate what we have achieved. Even more exciting to consider is what the next 30 years can hold. With the opening of Wapato Lake NWR to the public, we welcome an entirely new community in Gaston. As we watch the communities around the Refuge Complex explode with growth, we know that there are so many opportunities to engage even more people with the wonder of nature. So many possibilities.



As I look back over this past year I am again astonished by all of the activities and connections that have occurred. I started off last Fall by enrolling in a course offered through Portland State University and Willamette Valley Development Officers that allowed me to earn a Certificate in Nonprofit Fundraising. In late June of this year I earned my certification and I am extremely grateful to the Friends Board that allowed me the time and space to complete this opportunity. I feel it will better position the Friends to be more financially stable.

Taking the course led directly to the planning of our largest benefit to date, the Brews for the Birds Beer & Music Festival (B4B), held the first weekend in August, that netted over \$9,000 for the Friends. You can read more about this event in the Special Report, but I will say here that this festival provided a fun and new way to engage with the public off the Refuge and diversified the way that we raise funds to support the mission of the Friends. We also held a Bowling for Dollars event that brought in over \$1,800. Both of these fundraisers are the result of the generosity of our supporters at Langer's Entertainment in Sherwood. As the Friends strive to always be a community asset, it is important to note those in the community that support the Friends-- a huge Thank You to Langer's Entertainment and all of our supporters!

I look forward to seeing what year 31 will bring and hope to see you out on the trails!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Dawn Carovano, FOR Board Treasurer
as of August 31, 2022

The reports included show the financial status of the Friends as of September 30, 2023. Budgeting for the next year is still somewhat conservative as we are in the first year of having an Executive Director to fund. We continue to recover from the pandemic in funding and volunteers. We applied for and were granted monies from the Employee Retention Credit federal program which improved our financial health. Net Assets without Donor restrictions

are \$175,373.81. Net Assets with Donor restrictions are \$40,997.60. The final payroll of the year is a very close approximation, so numbers will change only slightly at close.

As Treasure, I wish to thank our Financial Committee for their continued support and guidance.

Friends of TRNWRC Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 22/23 FY 22/23

	Net Revenue	
	Actual	Budget
Fundraising	\$(18,261.60)	\$ 9,800.00
General & Admin Costs	\$ 65,586.01	\$ (41,268.00)
Membership Development	\$ (9.23)	\$ (400.00)
Restoration	\$(50,937.13)	\$ -
Advocacy	\$ -	\$ (500.00)
Refuge Assist	\$ (2,891.56)	\$ (1,500.00)
Store Operations	\$ 20,776.01	\$ 16,370.00
Total	\$ 14,262.50	\$ (17,498.00)

Friends of TRNWRC Statement of Activity

October 2022 - September 2023

	Total
Revenue	186,574.26
Cost of Goods Sold	36,687.13
Gross Profit	\$ 149,887.13
Expenditures	
Business Expenses	5,476.27
Contract Services	10,754.11
Donated Goods for Friends use	49.98
Operations	8,641.67
Software Maint Agreements	938.03
QBKs Internal Funds Trans Expen	5,000.00
Payroll Program Salaries/Wages	28,976.00
Payroll Employer Tax	7,480.08
Payroll Friends Salary/Wages	60,872.04
Payroll Workers Comp Insurance	763.89
Meeting, Conference, Convention	1,186.00
Food Supplies, Meals	716.70
Travel	5.00
Other Expenses	4,764.86
Total Expenditures	\$ 135,624.63
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 14,262.50
Net Revenue	\$ 14,262.50

Friends of TRNWRC Budget Summary Fiscal Year 2023-2024

October 2023 - September 2024

	Advocacy	Refuge Assist	Fundraising	Genl/Admin	Membership Development	Restoration	Store	TOTAL
Gross Income	0.00	100,000.00	20,000.00	44,975.00	0.00	0.00	25,300.00	190,275.00
Expenditures	1,000.00	91,500.00	115.00	89,228.00	950.00	55,392.00	2,100.00	240,285.00
Grant funding						55,392.00		55,392.00
Net Revenue including Grant funding	-\$ 1,000.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 19,885.00	-\$ 44,253.00	-\$ 950.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 23,200.00	\$ 5,382.00

Note: As of this time there are no plans for a Bird Festival this budget year. Reserved funds: \$7,854.85

Note: As of this time there are no plans for a Photo Society this budget year. Reserved funds: \$3,135.39

Friends of TRNWRC
Statement of Financial Position
 As of September 30, 2023

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	182,457.50
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Other Current Assets	32,817.63
Fixed Assets	1,096.28
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 216,371.41
Liabilities	0.00
Equity	
30000 Opening Bal Equity	0.00
31500 Net Assets With donor restrictions	40,997.60
32000 Net Assets Without donor restrictions	175,373.81
32500 Net Revenue Contra Account	-14,262.50
Net Revenue	14,262.50
Total Equity	\$ 216,371.41
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 216,371.41



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Phyllis Millan, Membership Committee

Membership Matters - "Joyfully Connecting our Community with the Wonder of the Refuge"

The Membership Committee was excited to launch several new initiatives this past year to make Membership mean More. We held behind-the-scene members' walks, we hosted a published author for a fascinating look at "insects that changed history" and we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Friends. Friends' membership numbers have rebounded after the pandemic slump, even with some adjustments to our membership categories. We are currently averaging 326 members. Our highest level, the Eagle society is at 24 members (thank you), and we have grown the Heron and Mallard categories.

This is just a sample of our work this year:

- Our Eagle, Falcon, Goose, Heron, Owl, and Mallard Members of the Friends have been invited to our special Behind the Sign Walks. These have been a great success and many of our members have had an opportunity to see parts of the Refuge normally not open to the public. Some of the walks included visits to Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge before it opened to the public, the Onion Flats Unit, and Rock Creek adjacent to the Refuge.
- We were happy to welcome an Affiliate member, the Sherwood Rotary. They have become a robust partner with the Refuge, actively participating in plantings and many of our Friends' events, including the Oregon Youth Climate Summit and

our Brews for the Birds Beer & Music Festival.

- The highlight of Membership this year was the 30th Anniversary celebration at the Tualatin River NWR's Dennis Unit. This fun-filled evening attended by nearly 100 of our members featured wonderful picnic food cooked by our Refuge Manager's husband, Walt Chuck. Refuge biologist Curt Mykut's band "The Dudes" provided lively entertainment for this gathering of old and new Friends of the Refuge.
- We are starting a new lecture series called Conservation Conversations. Members will be invited to these monthly presentations from experts in many areas of conservation.



We hope you will consider renewing your Membership at a higher level and be part of all our ongoing activities designed to benefit all Refuge visitors and the environment, and to continue to build connections with the community.

Questions, ideas? Contact the Membership Committee at Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org. We would love to hear from you.

SPECIAL REPORT: First Annual Oregon Youth Climate Summit

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, Friends of the Refuge

The Friends hosted the First Annual Oregon Youth Climate Summit in April. Cheryl Hart, President of the Friends and Executive Director Bonnie Anderson mentored an outstanding group of brilliant high school students to help pull together this important event. A group of students that had never met before came together and exchange ideas, feelings and visions in honest and open conversations about what they hoped for by having the summit. This generation is definitely on the right track. The Summit was geared towards middle and high school students and included several speakers that provided insight into a variety of careers in conservation. Wilbert Warren from I'm Hooked was the keynote speaker, Jennifer Shih, Jenna Mendenhall and Chelsea McKinney also spoke. The Refuge plaza was buzzing with High School "Climate Club" & "Green Team" information booths along with invited

conservation organization's information tables. A huge thank you to Alan Ma from NextGen

Innovators and a Jesuit High School Senior and Emily

Yarvis a Senior from Sunset for spending many Wednesday evenings on Zoom planning the Summit. Thank you also to all of the other students from the area that helped plan and execute the Summit and many who are ready to plan the next one on April 20, 2024.

RECONNECTING WITH ROOTS A YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT

Drop in and join us at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge on 4/15 from 1-5 PM:

Speakers • Nature Walks • Indigenous Voices • Clothing Swap • Organization Booths • Local Sustainable Companies (Free Swag!)

Keynote Speakers on:

- Environmental Action
- Youth Mental Health in Nature
- Creative Expression/Art Climate Storytelling

Scan to RSVP:



VISITOR CENTER & NATURE'S OVERLOOK SALES OUTLET

Submitted by Sharon Miller, Nature's Overlook Store Committee

It was another busy year in the Refuge Visitor Center and the Friends' retail store, Nature's Overlook. About 18,000 visitors came into the building to see the exhibits, get (and share) information, and shop. As this past fiscal year began, the Visitor Center had been open only a few months following a long closure due to the Covid pandemic. Visitors let us know that they were very happy to be able to enjoy the building and the activities again.



Educational and cuddly offerings at the store.

As always, we get a mix of frequent visitors who walk regularly on the trails and a huge number of first-time visitors who are delighted to find us. Some of those are tourists from outside the area who find us somewhat accidentally. Others are local people who have passed by on Pacific Highway for years and finally decided to check us out. We are pleased to welcome all of them!

The Visitor Center is staffed by over 40 dedicated volunteers who engage with visitors, answer questions and sell items in the retail store. Several of our volunteers found other opportunities while we were closed, so we have been working with USFWS staff to recruit and

train a number of new volunteers over the past few months. We have a group of stellar volunteers who love the Refuge and enjoy sharing it with others. The Visitor Center and Nature's Overlook could not operate without them.

Nature's Overlook is a significant source of funding for the Friends. While it's a fun place to shop for unique items, it also serves an educational purpose, since all the products contribute to better awareness of the environment and conservation issues. Funds from sales in the store are used for projects and programs on the Refuge.

We recently acquired a new "resident" in the Visitor Center. A taxidermied Trumpeter Swan is now on display in the Riparian Room. He was found deceased at Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and the decision was made to preserve him for educational purposes. The Friends funded

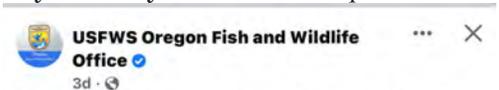


Refuge staff and volunteers made a new home for the Trumpeter Swan in the Riparian Room.

the taxidermy and USFWS built a wood and plexiglas display case for him. He can be viewed whenever there are no meetings going on in the Riparian Room. If the door to that room is closed, ask the volunteer at the front desk if you can see him – he is really quite amazing.

Also in the Riparian Room, we are currently displaying prints of entries in this year's Oregon Junior Duck Stamp contest. The Best of Show winner was entered in the national contest in West Virginia, and won third place. Congratulations, Emily! While you are in the Riparian Room to see the Trumpeter Swan, take a look at the work of these very talented young people.

More incredible art is on display on the Gallery Wall along the hallway to the left of the Exhibit Hall. They are the winners of the 2023 Friends' Youth Art Contest with the Oregon Chinese Coalition. The next contest will be in early 2024.



USFWS Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office
3d · 🌐

Congratulations to Emily for winning Best of Show in Oregon's 2023 Junior Duck Stamp art contest!!! Her gorgeous entry of a mallard pair standing in shallow water was created with oil paint. Next up: her artwork is headed to the National competition, which will be held on April 21 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia.

Inspired by the art you see in this contest? Learn more about the K-12 art & science program and get youth involved: <https://www.fws.gov/program/junior-duck-stamp/junior-duck-stamp-contest-information>



Oregon's Best of Show won third place in the National Junior Duck Stamp Competition!

VISITOR SERVICES PROGRAM

Submitted by Natalie Balkam, Park Ranger, USFWS

This was a busy and exciting year for visitor services at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex – it was filled with several big events, such as the opening ceremony for Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Pride in the Wild, and Creatures of the Night, but also small moments of joy, such as getting to see the kindergartners of Greenway Elementary School exploring the Refuge for the first time. We continued to work to rebuild our onsite fieldtrips and volunteer programs, and overall to strengthen the community that calls the Refuge home.

Environmental Education

TREE Partnership Program

Our TREE (Tualatin River Environmental Education) partnership program is one branch of our environmental education that focuses on intentional and sustained partnership with schools. The 2022-23 school year saw the completion of the second year and the start of the third full year for our official partnership with Greenway Elementary School to provide year-long programming for all K-5 students. Refuge staff and volunteers engage students through in-person visits, supplemental videos, virtual visits during assemblies, a mini Bird Festival, and an end-of-year fieldtrip to the Refuge. Refuge volunteers were crucial not only in the program delivery, but in being a positive part of the relationship with Greenway. In addition to the mini Bird Festival, the Friends once again provided “Friday with the Friends,” an effort that brought volunteers to the school monthly, where students could conduct bird watching during recess. Last year’s programs focused on engineering (nature’s engineers such as beavers, plants, and humans as engineers) with an emphasis on creative problem-solving. At the end of the school year, students once again embarked on a Changemaker project, in which all classes addressed some sort of environmental issue. One class worked with Beaverton School District’s



Naturalist volunteers at the mini Greenway Bird Festival



Volunteers guide students in bird watching during “Friday with the Friends.”

Maintenance program to mitigate access to the playground; another class wrote to their local representatives. These projects have demonstrated a larger effect of the program, which is the importance of the empowerment of students through trust and nurturing curiosity.

Return of Onsite Field Trips

This past spring marked the return of onsite fieldtrips since the start of the pandemic in 2020; volunteers enthusiastically joined the call and returned for naturalist training. We changed the model of fieldtrips, making the process easier for all of those involved. In total, we worked with 189 students across 6 field trips for these single-day opportunities.

Community Engagement

This year we continued to build on existing community partnerships (such as those with the Oregon Chinese Coalition), and also worked with other important community leaders for programs such as the Blueprint Foundation, Adelante mujeres and ELSO (Experience Life Science Outdoors, formerly Camp ELSO). All of these organizations do specific and intentional work with and for their communities, and it was great to be able to connect with them.

Out near Wapato Lake NWR, Refuge staff volunteered at the Gaston Jr. High science fair (judging science fair projects). At Henry Hagg Lake, I’m Hooked hosted their annual Great Outdoor Experience, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a partner. It was a great day for families to connect to the outdoors and was an extremely well attended event.



Refuge staff and volunteers at I'm Hooked Great Outdoor Experience Event

Volunteers

This year, much of the focus was rebuilding our volunteer program after returning to in-person programming. We were fortunate to have many returning volunteers, but also worked to increase the volunteer capacity, specifically in the visitor center. We onboarded more than twenty new visitor center volunteers, 10+ new trail rovers (including trail rovers at Wapato Lake NWR), and cross-trained many volunteers (specifically as naturalist volunteers to assist with our environmental education programs).

We continued to hold our monthly volunteer events, which provides time and space where they can not only further their learning and understanding of the Refuge, but also connect with fellow volunteers, Refuge staff, and community members. This year all of our events were in-person, and centered around topics such as freshwater mussels (led by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Xerces Society), the Portland Chinese community (led by the Oregon Chinese Coalition), diversity hiring efforts in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, waterfowl watching at Wapato Lake NWR, and coffee talks with Refuge management.

Special Events

Creatures of the Night

In fall of 2022, we brought back our annual Creatures of the Night event, which celebrates nocturnal animals at the Refuge. Over 200 people attended, many of them from the Greenway and Oregon Chinese Coalition community, two important community partners. Attendees participated in

guided night walks and owl pellet dissection, and learned about nocturnal animals at a pelts and skulls table, and decorated cookies.

Wapato Lake NWR Opening

While Wapato Lake NWR opened to the public in October of 2022, the Refuge hosted an official welcoming ceremony and celebration in March of 2023. Representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Friends of Tualatin River NWRC, City of Gaston, and a congressional representative all made remarks. Festivities took place at Gaston Jr./Sr. High School, and of course at Wapato Lake NWR. The day couldn't have been possible without volunteers who



Naturalist volunteers demonstrate different animals found at Wapato Lake NWR for the opening celebration

engaged with visitors on the trail, and several community partners such as I'm Hooked and Access Recreation, who spoke with visitors at the school. It was a rare sunny day in the spring, and celebrated the opening of the Refuge in good spirits.

Pride in the Wild

In July 2023, Tualatin River NWR hosted a "Pride in the Wild" event, one of the first Pride events in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Region. The event was organized by the USFWS Pride Employee Resource Group, with community partners such as the Feminist Bird Club and Queer Flockers. The event was open to all, with a specific focus on celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, and featured a full lineup of activities including a bird walk, plant walk, water coloring, and salsa and bachata dancing. Huge thanks goes to the Friends of Tualatin River NWRC for purchasing our first Pride flag, and to the Community Asset Committee for providing snacks and refreshments.

SPECIAL REPORT: Friends and Oregon Chinese Coalition - Youth Art Contest Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, Friends of the Refuge

“Picture Yourself in Nature” was the theme of the 2nd Annual Friends’ Youth Art Contest in partnership with the Oregon Chinese Coalition. Fifty-five submissions from Kindergarten- 12th grade students were judged in 2023. I was honored to hand out the certificates, ribbons and prizes provided by the Friends during a reception at the Refuge in February. The OCC presented the “Best in Show” winner with a \$500 scholarship. Eighteen of the top scored pieces are currently on display in the Visitor Center. A huge thank you to our judges, Cheryl Hart, Rebecca Chuck, Virginia Parks and student judge Stella Wang. Additional thanks to George Burnett and Blair Anderson for their help with the contest and to Todd McKinney and Carly Hirschmann for leading the family nature walks after the reception. The Youth Art Contest is just one of the programs that the Friends and the Refuge have with the Oregon Chinese Coalition, a strong partnership that continues to grow each year. The 2024 theme will be “The Healing Art of Nature.”



Winning entry in The FOR-OCC Youth Art Contest, 2022, with the theme “Picture Yourself in Nature,” Group 1 First Place.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Connecting Greenway Elementary School with Nature

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, Friends of the Refuge/Greenway Liaison

During the past school year, the Friends continued to work closely with Greenway Elementary School in Beaverton, Oregon. The Friends work in conjunction with USFWS staff and their TREE (Tualatin River Environmental Education) program. The Friends provide funding as a community asset to provide several programs at Greenway. These include the “Change Maker Projects,” which empower each classroom to take on an environmental issue facing the class, school, or community and work together to find solutions. One of the projects we funded this year is a fish art installation on the fence surrounding the playground at the school. To learn more about the projects visit [Changemakers](#).

The Friends also helped organize the 3rd Annual Bird Fest at Greenway, an event that has become a family favorite and is the highest attended school event of the year. Friends and Refuge staff arranged for several conservation partners to attend, including fishing demonstrations with I’m Hooked and helping students build several hundred birdhouses.

Each school year every student from Greenway has the opportunity to take a field trip to Tualatin River NWR, another program supported by the Friends. Many students call it the highlight of the year and say they enjoy seeing the birds and animals at the Refuge. The all school field trip

caps off a year of learning with the TREE program and helps solidify the lessons taught. This year the Friends also provided bus funding for the two fifth grade classes to go on a fishing field trip to Horning’s Hideout and spend the day with our partner Wilbert Warren from I’m Hooked. Only a handful of students had ever been fishing before and every student caught at least one fish.

The Friday with the Friends program is growing stronger every year. Friends volunteers spend the first Friday of every month during the school year at Greenway during the students’ recess time. These dedicated volunteers teach the Kindergarten through 5th grade students how to use monoculars, binoculars and spotting scopes. Students learn bird identification and enjoy creating a list of all of the birds and wildlife they see in their schoolyard.

The Friends continue to find new ways of connecting with the students and each year provides more opportunities. During Back to School Night and the Bird Festival event, parents and students shared how much these programs mean to them, and many have attended activities such as Creatures of the Night at the Refuge. The support we can provide enables these students to learn more about the natural world around them. Imagine, we might be encouraging the next Jane Goodall or Rachel Carson!



SPECIAL REPORT:

First Annual Brews for the Birds Beer & Music Festival

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, Friends of the Refuge

The first annual Brews for the Birds Beer & Music Festival Benefit (B4B) took place the first weekend in August. The benefit netted just a little over \$9,000 from the two-day event. An enormous thank you to Langer's Entertainment for their generous support and partnership. Langer's is a strong supporter of the entire Sherwood community and we are looking forward to a long partnership as we start to plan and grow the 2024 B4B beer & music festival. A special thank you to our other sponsors that include Clean Water Services, Tree for All, Sherwood Camp Bow Wow, Spence Johnston from Edward Jones, Ewing Young Distillery, Washington County Visitors Association and our own Cheryl Hart.



Ewing Young Distillery and many other sponsors made the event possible.

Another special thank you to all of the raffle donors that included Willamette Valley Winery, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Kason Winery, Cascadia Pottery, Charlie Sandbo Photography and Atrium Arte.

The "Brews" portion of the festival could not have happened without the generous support of Maletis Beverage, Fort George, 19 Acres Cider Co., Pelican Brewing, Portland Cider Co., Breakside Brewery, Sunriver Brewing Co., San Jaun Seltzer and Stella Artois. Thanks to all for their generous and tasty support!



Supporters flock to the Beer Garden at Langer's Entertainment Center to enjoy the live music and a brew during the first annual B4B.

The special star of the show was the music. The variety of sounds made for a great festival. These sounds included rock-n-roll, zydeco, blues, and folk. The Dudes, who donated their set to support the Friends, and The Filthy Skillsets, The New Iberians, Accidental Folks, and Bridge City Blues all played at a greatly reduced rate.

An extra-special thank you to my small but mighty committee of Michael Boreing and George Burnett, who worked tirelessly to pull this all together in just over three months. We had a fantastic team of dedicated festival volunteers that made sure everyone attending had a great time and learned about the Friends and the Refuge Complex.



A vendor market and conservation exhibitor area added a special touch to the festival. The USFWS Jr. Duck Stamp exhibit received a lot of interest as did the other booths from Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Xerces Society, USFWS and the Friends. The committee focused on local artisans from diverse backgrounds to offer a free space to sell their creations.



The Dudes donated their set to support the Friends.

From the information gathered at the festival we found that a majority of attendees came from Portland, followed by Sherwood, Tigard and Beaverton. Over 60% had not been to Langer's before and around 22% had not been to the Tualatin River NWR before. 63% might be interested in volunteering at the Refuge and the Friends gained a few new members too! When asked how they had heard about the Brews for the Birds almost 40% said word of mouth. Many had seen the segment filmed for AM Northwest too.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Brews for the Birds. Mark your calendar now for the 2nd Annual festival the evening of Friday August 2nd and Saturday Aug 3rd, 2024.

SPECIAL REPORT: The Emerald Ash Borer

Submitted by Bella Padgett, Friends Habitat Restoration Specialist

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native wood boring beetle that poses an existential threat not only to our ash-dominated forests here in the Willamette Valley, but ash trees throughout the United States. The Tualatin River NWRC is home to thousands of Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) trees found in a variety of habitat types, including ash woodlands—the most common woodland type in Willamette Valley’s floodplains. These trees and their associated communities fill countless vital ecological roles from cooling our streams to providing habitat for many wildlife species.

EAB attacks trees in the *Fraxinus* genus by boring through the bark and into the phloem, the tissue that transports sugar and other nutrients throughout the tree. Larvae will feed on this tissue until the tree begins to decline and eventually die. This process usually takes 2-4 years depending on the severity of infestation. It is believed that EAB was transported in wood packing material moving from China to Michigan in the 1990s and by the time EAB was detected in 2002, it had spread to at least 15 nearby counties. Today it has been detected in over 1240 counties across the country. On June 30, 2022, Washington County was added to that list and Forest Grove became the site of the first known EAB detection west of the Rocky Mountains.

EAB, sometimes described as the ‘wildfire of the east,’ is the most destructive forest pest in the US. It has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees since its introduction, and is expected to jeopardize all 16 North American *Fraxinus* species. When EAB was initially discovered in Oregon, the Oregon Department of Agriculture estimated that it had gone undetected in Washington County for at least 3-5 years. While this is concerning news for the future of the Refuge’s forests, we have an advantage. Our eastern counterparts, both within the USFWS and without, have spent the past 21 years collecting data, developing management strategies, and pioneering solutions to many of the issues that EAB creates for land managers, ecosystems, and the public.

While planning for the day that EAB is detected at TRNWRC is a big task, we have many tools and strategies at our disposal. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Department of Agriculture, Metro, and other agencies and partners are working diligently to assist in monitoring, public outreach, education, and funding for EAB response across the state. We are excited to offer educational resources in partnership with ODF for our staff and volunteers to more proactively understand and respond to this new threat.

For more information, go to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>



Adult Emerald Ash Borer-public domain image from USDA-APHIS

RESTORATION PROGRAM

Submitted by Bella Padgett, Friends Habitat Restoration Specialist

It has been yet another productive year for the TRNWRC restoration program. Through the Friends and USFWS, we successfully engaged volunteers in over 1000 hours of service for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat. Citizen science projects like the Christmas Bird Count and amphibian egg mass surveys experienced excellent engagement, with 54 volunteers joining us in this important work.

One major accomplishment this year was the installation of the pollinator gardens. This project, initiated by alumna Friends of the Refuge HRS Carly, provides both habitat and forage for native pollinators and accessible education for visitors. Each garden exemplifies a different style of pollinator feature, from showy wildflowers to drought tolerant blooms. These gardens create a powerful visual narrative for visitors—YOU can create pollinator habitat wherever you live! Thanks to the Friends for their facilitation of this project, and to our partners that made it possible, Sherwood Rotary 5100 and One Tree Planted.



Volunteer planting a pollinator garden at Refuge HQ

The pollinator garden project was executed with the help of many volunteers over the course of three work parties. We are thankful to everyone that helped to prepare the site, install high value pollinator forage plants, and continue to maintain the gardens. Native bees as well as European honey bees have been making extensive use of this new habitat feature and have even moved in! Small carpenter bees (*Ceratina* spp.) have set up shop in the blue elderberry across the plaza and can often be seen visiting the abundant forage in their backyard!

We had the privilege of working with many wonderful

volunteers this year on a variety of projects. While invasive plant removal can sometimes feel less thrilling than planting projects, the reality is that this work is essential to the success of our program. This year, volunteers took on projects from Himalayan blackberry removal to conquering cocklebur. Thanks to these incredible efforts, new views of the Refuge were revealed, trees



Pollinator gardeners!

were freed from choking vines, and important restored prairie habitat was nurtured. Many thanks to the over 100 volunteers who carried out this important work with us this year!

This year's planting season was a resounding success, with hundreds of volunteers giving of their time, and thousands of plants finding a place to grow. The Friends worked with groups including Friends of Trees, Oregon Chinese Coalition, USFWS Migratory Birds Program, I'm Hooked, Portland State University's Indigenous Nations Studies program, and many many others. Together we installed camas, Oregon yampah, wapato, spirea, willow, and red osier dogwood, along with other species that, like the efforts of those that planted them, will continue to enrich the Refuge complex and its habitats for years to come. These plantings all contribute to the Refuge's goals of expanding important habitats like scrub-shrub wetlands and riparian forests. Scrub-shrub wetlands are a priority habitat in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and serve to support myriad wildlife species. Other 2022-2023 plantings served to expand riparian forests on the Refuge. These forests play an integral role in maintaining stream health by providing shade, depositing nutrients, and contributing large woody debris that serve as important refugia for young anadromous fish and other wildlife.



Students from PSU's Indigenous Nations Studies Program plant at the wetland margin.

Thanks to the Portland Audubon Society for their continued facilitation of the Christmas Bird Count, which serves not only to create community and an opportunity for birders to give back, but also provides essential data that assists conservationists



A native metallic green sweat bee (*Agapostemon virescens*) enjoying Farewell-to-Spring (*Clarkia* spp.), one of the native forbs planted in our pollinator gardens! Photo by Bella Padgett

and researchers in managing the avifauna of our region and beyond. Our Christmas Bird Count teams detected 93 different species and 15885 individuals during the 2022 survey. Similarly, the amphibian egg mass survey program facilitated by the Friends served to assist Metro and their partners, including The Wetlands Conservancy and Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District, in better understanding population trends and the reproductive success of native amphibians that occupy our wetlands. Amphibians also serve as excellent indicators of wetland health, and provide one metric by which we can understand the success of our restoration efforts.

The purple martin nest boxes, created in partnership with the Oregon Woodworkers Guild and painted by our intrepid 2nd Saturday volunteers, have continued to provide necessary nesting habitat for purple martins, a critically sensitive species in Oregon. Refuge staff are working to expand the number of nest boxes we provide next year, as they were a hit with our population of purple martins! We are pleased to be a part of the ongoing efforts to give this species a helping hand.

The Tualatin River NWR conducted a successful prescribed burn of a 52 acre parcel of wet prairie in September. This burn could not have been completed without the collaboration of partners, including The USFWS Fire Crew, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue along with many others. Prairies are one of several habitat types that have adapted to rely on periodic, low intensity fire. Indigenous people have historically managed landscapes in the Willamette Valley and far beyond with the use of tools including prescribed fire. The positive effects of fire cannot be adequately replicated through other means of disturbance such as mowing or tilling. In prairies, this type of carefully administered fire serves to reduce thatch accumulation, minimize invasive pressure, and enrich



Prescribed burn at TRNWR, September 2023.



Invasive plant removal work party at TRNWR.

soils, among many other benefits. This burn represents a major accomplishment for the restoration program and its partners. We appreciate the efforts of everyone that made this burn possible, and we look forward to seeing a wide array of native forbs, seeded by Clean Water Services, blooming there this spring.

The Friends HRS position assisted Refuge staff by conducting weekly waterfowl surveys at both Refuges this year. These surveys capture important information regarding what species are present, what habitat or vegetation they are using, and how successful our efforts are in giving them the habitat their populations need to succeed. This year we witnessed canvasback ducks, Dusky Canada geese, tundra swans, and many more species utilizing the habitat that our staff and volunteers work so hard to restore!



Volunteers conducting amphibian egg mass surveys at TRNWR.

Thank you to each and every volunteer, organization, donor and partner that made this year's work possible! Partners this year included:

Metro • Oregon Chinese Coalition • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Friends of Trees • Sherwood High School Key Club • PSU Indigenous Nations Studies ITECK Program • Portland Audubon • Sherwood Rotary • One Tree Planted • and many more!

SPECIAL REPORT: A Message from the Refuge Manager

What a year 2023 has been, so much happening! I am so grateful that you, our Friends, continue to find new ways to joyfully connect more of our communities with the wonders of the Refuge. As the newly restored Chicken Creek continued its evolution across the Tualatin River NWR landscape, encouraged and sculpted by our beaver “engineers,” the Refuge saw the full strength return of our cherished volunteer program and some of the visitor programs that are so beloved by local families. And together we – Refuge and Friends – have continued our evolution as well, inviting and welcoming even more of the diverse communities around us to visit their Refuges.

But first, what a year for the Friends of Tualatin River NWRC’s 30th birthday! How lovely it was to celebrate this special milestone together on a beautiful evening in June, with food and music and Friends of all vintages. It was wonderful to see so many of you there and to be able to thank you in person. Thirty years of support and dedication! This Refuge Complex is so fortunate to have all of your steady support.

Friends were so important to welcoming the community to Wapato Lake NWR in March, when we enjoyed an unseasonably gorgeous day for the Wapato Lake NWR Community Welcoming Ceremony and Gathering in the town of Gaston. This was a long-awaited Refuge Opening celebration, co-created with partners and local residents. Throughout the planning and implementation, we worked in collaboration to create and host an event that acknowledged and honored the lake’s history, grounded us in the present, and celebrated the future of this special place. As we plan now for the restoration of the lake to a year-round shallow marsh, including the rehabilitation of the embankment surrounding the lake in 2025, we continue to welcome new voices to the conversation around sharing this Refuge with everyone.

The life of the Refuge returned with vigor in 2023. School field trips returned to the Tualatin River trails. Friends joined Refuge staff at Greenway Elementary, making lifetime impressions on these precious children. The Oregon Chinese Coalition continued our joyful



collaboration with the Art Contest. Second Saturday work parties resumed, contributing immeasurably to habitat restoration. Our first Pride event was celebrated at the Refuge in June. The first ever “Brews for the Birds” fundraiser was a smashing success in August. Hispanic Heritage Day (Día de celebración de la herencia hispana) filled the Refuge with joy in September. Creatures of the Night is in the planning stages for October. The Visitor Center volunteers enthusiastically welcomed our visitors all year long, sharing news of Refuge happenings and special wildlife sightings. The life of the Refuge continues its evolution.... and the Refuge and Friends relationship grows stronger and more important.

What will the next 30 years look like? All I know is that you, our Friends, will still be here, joyfully connecting our community with the wonder of the Refuge. Thank you!!

Rebecca Gomez Chuck, Refuge Manager



Project Leader Rebecca Gómez Chuck speaking at the Wapato Lake NWR opening ceremony.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Friends President's Volunteer Service Awards in Recognition of Exceptional Service

Since 2008, the President of the Friends of the Refuge has selected four names to be engraved on the plaques that hang in the Visitor Center at the Refuge. This year we will be adding a third plaque to that space with four new names. The selection of these names is made by the current President, with some input and suggestions from the Board. Every volunteer is Exceptional. This is just an opportunity to highlight a few stand outs over the year.

2008:	Robert Swanson	Carolyn Uyemura	Virginia Parks	Paul Jaussi
2009:	Berk Moss	Carolyn Penner	Arlin Inman	Bob Fuquay
2010:	Norman Penner	Cheryl Turoczy Hart	Bonnie Anderson	Larry Harrington
2011:	Dawn Carovano	George Burnett	Ginny Maffitt	Mike Smith & Judy Doyle
2012:	Bernie Smith	Gary Fawver	Jay Medley	Blair Anderson
2013:	Sharon Miller	Crafty Friends	Bjorn Fredrickson	Charlie Graham
2014:	Marty Clancy	Donald Nelson	Marilyn Ellis	Mary French & Doug Niwa
2015:	Bob & Joan Try	Mike Skinner	Linda Kilgore	Tom Hartz
2016:	Willem Stoeller	Pam Farris	Kristine Al-Rashidi	John Gendron & Tobyn Bower
2017:	Pat & Bobbie Allaire	Jim Burrows	Ruthann Panck	Rick & Jennifer Bennett
2018:	Scott Owen	Judy Silverforb	Wendy Cattanach	Jim Nicolson
2019:	Michelle Miller	Barbara Allen	The Olivares Family	Frank Nusser
2020:	Irene Vlach	Mike Jolley	Alan Fitzpatrick	Joseph Edgerton
2021:	Darlene Dumke	Cameron Backus	David Collin	Keith Palevsky
2022:	Sara Z Abel	Richard Scheideman	OR Chinese Coalition	Rotary Club of Sherwood

2023 Honorees

John Purcell: John has been a volunteer in the Nature's Overlook Store since before the pandemic. John is extremely reliable and we can always count on him to work his Thursday morning shift. He brings a great deal of retail experience as a volunteer, and that shows in the calm and professional way he does his job. For the last six months he has really stepped up even more and is currently helping train new store volunteers. At least half the volunteers who have come on board recently have worked their first shift with John, and their feedback has been that they feel they have a solid grasp of Store/Visitor Center operations after working with him. He is an exceptional volunteer.

Alan Ma: Alan first began volunteering and connecting with the Friends when he was a Junior at Jesuit High School. After volunteering at a work party event planned for the Oregon Chinese Coalition, Alan joined the Friends. He began collaborating with USFWS on a special use permit to test out a prototype that he had invented that detected wildlife crossing and could reduce the amount of accidents from this. Alan approached the Friends during his Senior year looking for a way to give back to the Friends and the Refuge, because he felt he had been given so many opportunities here. Working together with the organization he founded, NextGen Innovators, a student-led group, the concept of the Oregon Youth Climate Summit was created. The Friends hosted this student-planned event at the Refuge this spring. Alan created a coalition of middle and high school students that will carry on this vision in the years to come. As a Freshman at Stanford University this year, Alan can be proud that this summit will be an annual event for the Friends and the Refuge.

Phyllis Millan: Phyllis is a dedicated Naturalist and Board member. She has spent countless hours volunteering for the Friends Summer Camp, field trips, the Greenway TREE program, and any opportunity there is to engage young people with the natural world around them. Students' faces light up when Phyllis talks about mammals, plants, and birds. She is a dedicated birder and enjoys sharing her knowledge with others. As a member of the Friends' Board of Directors, Phyllis is tenacious and works hard to make the Friends an excellent organization. She is dedicated to growing awareness of the Friends in the community with the work she does as chair of the Membership Committee. Phyllis can often be found out on the trails sharing her knowledge about the Refuge Complex with visitors.

Michael Boreing: Although Michael has only been on the Board of Directors for a short time he has made a tremendous impact on our strategic planning and goal setting as an organization. Michael makes sure we stay on a well-defined path to achieving our goals and was key in helping plan and organize our Board retreat. He also played a vital role in following up on all the key pillars the Board determined important for the Friends. Michael has regularly planned and led Brown Bag sessions before our monthly Board meetings as an opportunity to dive deeper into these pillars and create strategies to move forward. Michael was also "instrumental" in planning all of the musical acts for the Brews for the Birds Beer & Music Festival in August. Sharing his love of music and planning events, he was vital to the success of the festival. Michael is **17** generous with his time and wisdom and has a great calming and kind way about him.

Thank You, Donors!

Friends' General Refuge Support

Anonymous (14)
James Alexander
Bonnie & Martin Anderson
Judy Anderson & Tom Leffler
Diana Antonson
Amazon Smile
Jeanine Bassett
Benevity/ America Online Giving/ UK Online Giving
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Michael Boreing*
Patsy Bruggere
Lisa Brenner & Tom Stibolt*
Stan & Dawn Carovano*
Sharon Carver
Wendy Cattanaach
Alan Christensen*
Clean Water Services
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Crocker
Ewing Young Distillery
Ronald Farley
Fidelity Charitable recommendation from Nancy Denton Murry
Bjorn & Catherine Fredrickson
Fred Meyer Rewards
Hilary Goldman & Manning Sutton
Cheryl Hart*
Tom Hartz*
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Spence Johnston with Edward Jones
Kaiser Foundation- Community Giving Campaign Match Funds
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Sharon Miller*
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Network for Good
One Tree Planted
Oregon Beverage Recycling Bottle Drop Program



Steven Perry
Rotary Club of Sherwood
Charlie Sandbo
Michelle & Todd Scholz
Sherwood Camp Bow Wow
Willem Stoeller*
Tree For All
Washington County Strategic Investment Program-
Commissioner Roy Rogers
Washington County Visitors Association
Bing Wong
*Board of Directors, Friends of TRNWRC

Donations in Honor or Memory

Donations from Elizabeth Medley in Honor of
Judith Lothrop
Steve Smith & Kelsey Wirtzeld
Bob & Cathy Smith
Donation from Diane King in loving memory of her cousin
Betty June Petteys- Weschkull
Donation from Jeanine Bassett in memory of
Betty Werschlarw

Facebook Fundraisers

Giving Tuesday November 2022 Raised \$635

Bonnie & Marty Anderson \$300 in honor of Judy Anderson
Judy Anderson Bill Abendroth
Darcy & Steve Burke Mark Barberi
David Brown David Collin
Nikki Hartz

Bonnie Anderson's Birthday - November 2022 Raised \$571
Bonnie and Marty Anderson Judy Anderson
Polly Anderson Dick Dolan
Lee Ann Colacioppo John Felsenthal Jr.
Dr. Gillian Friedman Michael Lilly
David Brown Willem Stoeller
Sharon Miller Kara Robinson
Jennifer Morlan David Collin
Glen Mejia



Environmental Education and Restoration Programs

Clean Water Services
One Tree Planted
Rotary Club of Sherwood
Bosky Dell Natives
US Fish and Wildlife Service

More Snapshots from a Year That Made a Difference



Special thanks to all the staff and volunteers and OCC Art Contest Participants whose artwork and photographs throughout this report capture the beauty of Nature and the importance of the work we do together!



OCC Art Contest - 1st Place, Group 2.



Please be sure to "like" the Friends' Facebook page! The page provides news about events and tidbits of interest about the Refuge. Share FOR posts with your friends to let them know about all the great things happening at the Refuge and in the National Wildlife Refuge System as a whole.