

# Making Tracks

e-zine of the Friends of Tualatin River NWR

Here is what's happening on The Refuge.  
Not a member? [Click here to join now!](#)

February 2016

## In This Issue

[President's Perch](#)

[Bird Festival](#)

[Moving Friends Forward](#)

[Nature's Overlook Store](#)

[Bag It Forward](#)

[Kids' Corner](#)

[Wildlife Center](#)

[Env Education News](#)

[Update on Malheur](#)

[Refuge High Waters](#)

[Photo Society Juried Display](#)

[Fred Meyer Rewards](#)

[Smile while you shop](#)

[Friends Social Media](#)

## From the President's Perch

*By Keith Mays, President of the Board*

As I write this there are still 4 terrorists continuing to occupy the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. I am sure I join each of you with the hope that they leave peacefully as soon as possible and face the appropriate charges for their illegal behavior. Even more, I hope all the law enforcement professionals that are helping to end this at Malheur are not injured as they work to return Malheur to its owners - American public and its wildlife.

Since illegal events started at MNWR, we along with US F&W, other Refuges and Friends groups have helped the displaced refuge employees and their families (16) and one employee of their Friends group. We have also kept the safety and well-being of Friends of TRNWR volunteers and employees, as well as our U.S. Fish & Wildlife friends at the forefront of what we do.

Please donate to Friends of TRNWF today to support your Refuge.

Remember, when you visit a refuge – just like when you are at other public places – if you see something out of place, report it.

Each month there are so many things happening at your refuge. In January we had over 700 students visit and we hosted the monthly Sherwood Chamber of Commerce breakfast and so so much more.

This week was the last week for Mark Newell as the Visitor Services Manager at TRNWR for the last six months. I want to thank him on behalf of the Friends for the great job he has done and wish him great success as he returns to Oregon Fish & Wildlife. We look forward to seeing him again from time to time--at the Bird Festival and then again this fall for the Youth Hunting program at the Refuge. Once part of the Refuge, always part of the Refuge.

The 20th annual Bird Festival is coming up in May. Contact us if you want to help this Bird



 JOIN

 DONATE



### SAVE THE DATE!

The 20th Annual Tualatin River Bird Festival is May 21, 2016.

Festival planning meetings are now on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 AM in the Riparian Room.

We will need a lot of volunteers to help on the day of the festival. Look for more information in the next news letter if you would like to volunteer.

Contact: [info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)

### This Month's Events

Second Saturday Work Party  
February 13th 8:45AM-1:00PM

Store Committee Meeting  
February 4th at 5:00pm  
Riparian Room

Photo Society Meeting  
February 4th 7:00-9:30PM  
Riparian Room

Puddle Stompers  
February 10th 1:00PM-2:30PM  
February 18th 10-11:30

Friends Board Meeting  
February 23, 6:30PM

Festival be the best one yet. Volunteer to help on that day or consider becoming a Festival sponsor, as an individual, a family, business, employer or organization.

We are thankful for your interest in and support of the Friends organization and Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Without you, our members and volunteers, the refuge would not exist and our many programs would not be possible.

## Moving Friends Forward - Braving the Blizzard of 2016

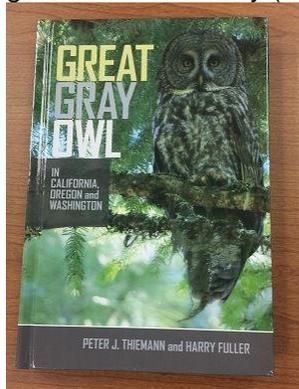
Friends' Board members Bonnie Anderson, Willem Stoeller and Refuge Manager, Erin Holmes had the opportunity to attend the 2016 National Wildlife Refuge System Friends Training at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Friends' partnerships are among the USFWS's best community ambassadors and by bringing Friends and FWS staff from every region in the country, we were able to fulfill the objectives of the training. These objectives included Engaging People, Friends-Service Partnerships and Nonprofit Management, and Communication and Marketing. Putting those three objectives together equals a win for People & Wildlife!. On the first day of training, Cynthia Martinez, Chief of Refuges, mentioned the Tualatin River Bird Festival as one of the highlights to the Refuge system! It was a wonderful experience, made even more special by being in the one place that had the most snowfall during the recent winter storm Jonas at 43.5 inches. Needless to say Bonnie, Willem and Erin enjoyed two extra days of networking and playing in the snow!



[return to top](#)

## Nature's Overlook

**Are we tired of wet feet yet?? We have just the thing!** Come see our new sock selection - guaranteed to be dry (for a while anyway).



Harry Fuller has written a book about one of the most mysterious and sought after owls - The Great Gray Owl. He was working on the book when he came to do a talk on his Freeway Birding book a few years ago. He spent numerous hours in the field taking photographs of these tall owls. He is involved in conservation through the Rogue Valley Audubon placing nest platforms. Check out their link: <http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org/GreatGrayOwlNests.html>

### "Wear" in the World

We are looking for photos of people wearing their Friends of TRNWR logo wear at other natural areas. Please send your photo to [info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org) and you might just be in the next Making Tracks e-newsletter.

February 23, 7:00PM  
business meeting

Please see our Friends  
website calendar for more  
details.

Here are the links to the  
Friends social media - check  
us out!

Our Facebook feed is also on  
our website at [Friends Website](#)



### Photos by Friends!

To see hundreds of photos of  
scenes on the refuge as well  
as refuge events, visit our  
FLICKR web site at [Friends  
FLICKR](#)

If you have a photo taken on  
the refuge and would like to  
share it with the Friends, email  
the image along with a brief  
note to: [Membership Email](#)

[return to top](#)

## Bag It Forward--Great News!



The Friends have been selected to be one of the first partners in a new "Bag It Forward" program at New Seasons Market.

Starting on February 8th customers shopping at New Seasons Market at Progress Ridge will have the opportunity to pay their bag refunds forward, donating 5 cents for each bag they fill to our organization. So help the earth by using reusable shopping bags and help the Friends by selecting us when shopping at New Seasons

[return to top](#)

## Kids' Corner!

Hey Kids! Bring your parents to the refuge - then tell us what you have seen. Take a photo, draw a picture, write a short story, pen a poem. With your parents permission and help, send us your imaginings. Our newsletter will include a Kid's Corner imagining every month. See you on the refuge!

For more information, contact: [members@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:members@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)



[return to top](#)

## Wildlife Center, Trail Rover & Interpretive Program

Come check out the new Wildlife Center Entrance Exhibit! The exhibit will change every month with a different theme. Thank you John G and Toby B for your hard work on this month's exhibit: Canada Geese!



[return to top](#)

## News from Environmental Education Programs

### Enrichment Opportunities Open to Public:

#### **Second Saturday Work Party**

Saturday, February 13th 8:45 AM – 1 PM  
South Riverboat Unit

For our February Second Saturday Work Party the Friends of the Refuge and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are excited to be hosting a planting with Friends of Trees and Clean Water Services! Last year we planted nearly 13,000 native trees and shrubs at our South Riverboat unit with the help of our partners and volunteers and we're headed out there to finish the job!

Please meet at the work site (not refuge HQ) at 20575 SW Scholls-Sherwood Rd, Sherwood, to get signed in and to grab some breakfast snacks and hot chocolate/coffee. Crews will be assigned and we'll start the event promptly at 9am. Parking is limited so please carpool when possible.

All gloves, tools, and training will be provided on site. Please bring a water bottle and dress for some muddy work!

If you would like to bring a group of 5 or more we kindly ask that you register using Friends of Trees group registration form found [Here](#). No registration is needed for groups of 4 or fewer or individuals.

Please email Habitat Restoration Specialist Sarah Williams at: [Swilliams@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:Swilliams@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org) with any questions. Hope to see you there!

#### **Puddle Stompers**

Wednesday, February 10 1:00-2:30  
Thursday, February 18 10:00-11:30

Do you have a little one who enjoys being outdoors? Are you wondering what they can do during the rainy season? Bring your littlest naturalist to the Refuge to stomp in puddles and learn to appreciate the wet weather that makes Oregon so green!

This preschool environmental education program invites children and their families to spend the afternoon learning about the natural wonders of the Refuge. Volunteer Naturalists will lead nature crafts, share stories, and guide hikes on Refuge trails. The Refuge supplies 'froggy'

raingear for the kids, but adults should bring their own. Each date offers a different theme, so Puddle Stompers are encouraged to visit on multiple days.

This event is free & open to the public, but registration is required.

Questions? Please contact the Friends Conservation Education Lead Coordinator [Jenna Mendenhall](#) or call (503)625-5944.

### **Other Volunteer opportunities**

There are many fun and rewarding programs and events that take place throughout the year. We would love to have you be a part of the refuge fun! Please visit [www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)

[return to top](#)

## **Update on Malheur NWR**

Update on Malheur NWR from Refuge Manager Erin Holmes:

As we enter into the 4th week of the illegal occupation of Malheur NWR by armed militia that are intruding on your public lands, my heart and thoughts are constantly with the staff, volunteers, and Friends of Malheur NWR as well as with the citizens of Harney County. My colleagues have been displaced by these intruders who have disrespected the lands and resources of this incredible landscape; a landscape that was set aside by the great President Roosevelt in 1908. As David Houghten, President - National Wildlife Refuge Association, said recently, "President Roosevelt must be rolling over in his grave".

While there are many actions occurring behind the scenes and I must trust the decisions of the law enforcement agencies working on this, I do know that my colleagues and their families are safe. We are taking care of them, providing support and care. This is the #1 priority and will continue to be so until they can return home.

It has been inspiring to see the outpouring of support from you. Your support and kind words have meant a lot to me, the staff, and the good people of Malheur NWR. You make a difference and we will come out of this stronger than ever.

I share this letter to you from the staff of Malheur NWR:

***An open letter to our friends, our supporters, and many curious about what's going on here.***

From: The Staff of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge  
To: Our Friends, Partners, and the American Public

Dear Friends,

Many have asked us to comment on the ongoing situation at Malheur NWR. We have refrained because we care deeply for the community, and want to ensure our words do not inflame an already heated situation. However, we believe it is important that our views and position are known.

We believe many in the media (as well as those sympathetic to the illegal occupiers) were surprised to hear that the community—while frustrated with the Hammond situation—did not leap to the support of the militants. We are not surprised.

For over 100 years, our Refuge employees have been members of this community. We study, watch our kids play basketball, worship, commune, and interact with our fellow Harney County citizens—not as a 'we vs. they'—but as an 'us.'

In a community with nearly 40% of working adults engaged in some form of government, we are all touched or involved in the public process. In Harney County, that means we talk. We have cups of coffee. We have arguments. Together we knit our brows, and together we knit scarves. We understand what those currently occupying the Refuge don't understand---that

Harney County isn't afraid of tough talk.

We can have effective disagreements and either find resolution, find compromise, or simply agree to disagree. But we do it with respect for the rule of law, and know that our areas of agreement and cooperation are infinitely more powerful than the differences we may face. Mostly, we face those differences together with open dialogue and open gates—not intimidation and threats. We have access to each other, because we are not afraid to confront difficult situations or have difficult conversations.

It pains each of us that we are missing our obligations to you—as church leaders, as 4-H advisers, as friends, and as school volunteers. We hope to be back soon and pick up where we left off.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your support. We know (as you do too) that it is not our Refuge that has been occupied; this is Harney County's and America's Refuge.

We are excited to be part of the eventual healing process for our community. We believe that this difficult situation will lead to even stronger bonds between the Refuge and the community that has supported us. We feel for you, because we are you.

We will get through this—because:

We. Are. Harney. County.

[return to top](#)

## High Waters!

The Tualatin River crested at over 34 feet in December, its highest level since 1997. Seeing the wetlands capture this much water was truly a unique experience. Our refuge is located at the lower end of a watershed within the “100 year floodplain,” but what exactly does that mean? It means our refuge wetlands and upland fields have a big role to play when we receive historic rains like we did in December. Namely, helping capture lots of water and provide a place for the Tualatin River and Rock Creek to flow once they crest their banks.



The outside viewing deck and the indoor Wildlife Center are great places to observe the water and wildlife activity. The Wildlife Center provides spotting scopes to aid in your viewing. Flood waters have receded now and the year-round walking trail has reopened.

[return to top](#)

## Photo Society Juried Photo Display

Have some images you'd like to see displayed in the Riparian room in May to July? The Photo Society is sponsoring a juried presentation of the selected best of the images from the Photo Society.

Images must be made in Oregon or Washington, you must be a Friends member on the membership rolls, and you must attend a Photo Society meeting in February and/or March to sign up and get final details.

You may submit up to three jpeg images for jury selection in the following seven categories.

- On the refuge - made in any federal or state wildlife refuge in Oregon or Washington
- Birds
- Mammals and Reptiles
- Macro/Plants/Flowers/Mushrooms
- Landscape
- Waterfall/Water/Reflections
- Insect/Invertebrate

The selection jury will select up to three(3) images for each of the categories. More detail on the submission and the jury selection timeline will be available at the February Photo Society meeting. Images will be due on March 10 and if selected, your print will need to be submitted on April 20.

There are no awards made with the selection process - those selected will have the opportunity of displaying. You will be required to submit text about the nature of the image to help educate the public.

Questions? Send an email to Don Nelson at [ac7zg@frontier.com](mailto:ac7zg@frontier.com) for clarification, specifications and answers.

[return to top](#)



**YOU CAN HELP Friends of TRNWR EARN DONATIONS JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARD!** We have seven members signed up already and have received donations!

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Friends of TRNWR at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number 93278.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Friends of TRNWR earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

For more information, please visit [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards).

[return to top](#)



## Support FOR While You Shop Online!

If you are a frequent Amazon shopper, here's a great way to support the Friends while you make your purchases! And the great thing is, there's no extra cost to you!

Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and log in using your Amazon account, then type "Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge" into the search box. Once it appears on your screen, check the "Select" box and you're ready to buy, buy, buy, while the Friends will receive a donation of .5% of every purchase from the Amazon Smile Foundation.

Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) so you use it every time you shop and those cents will add up into dollars that will help the Friends support programs and projects on the Refuge. How easy is that!?

[return to top](#)

## Let Us Know What You Think!

Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter. Please help us make it something you look forward to receiving by telling us what you want to know about, and how we can improve the look or content. This is a work in progress, and we look forward to hearing from you! [Click here](#) to email your thoughts.

## Contact Info

Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge  
19255 SW Pacific Highway  
Sherwood, OR 97140

503-625-5944      503-625-5944 x227

[www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)