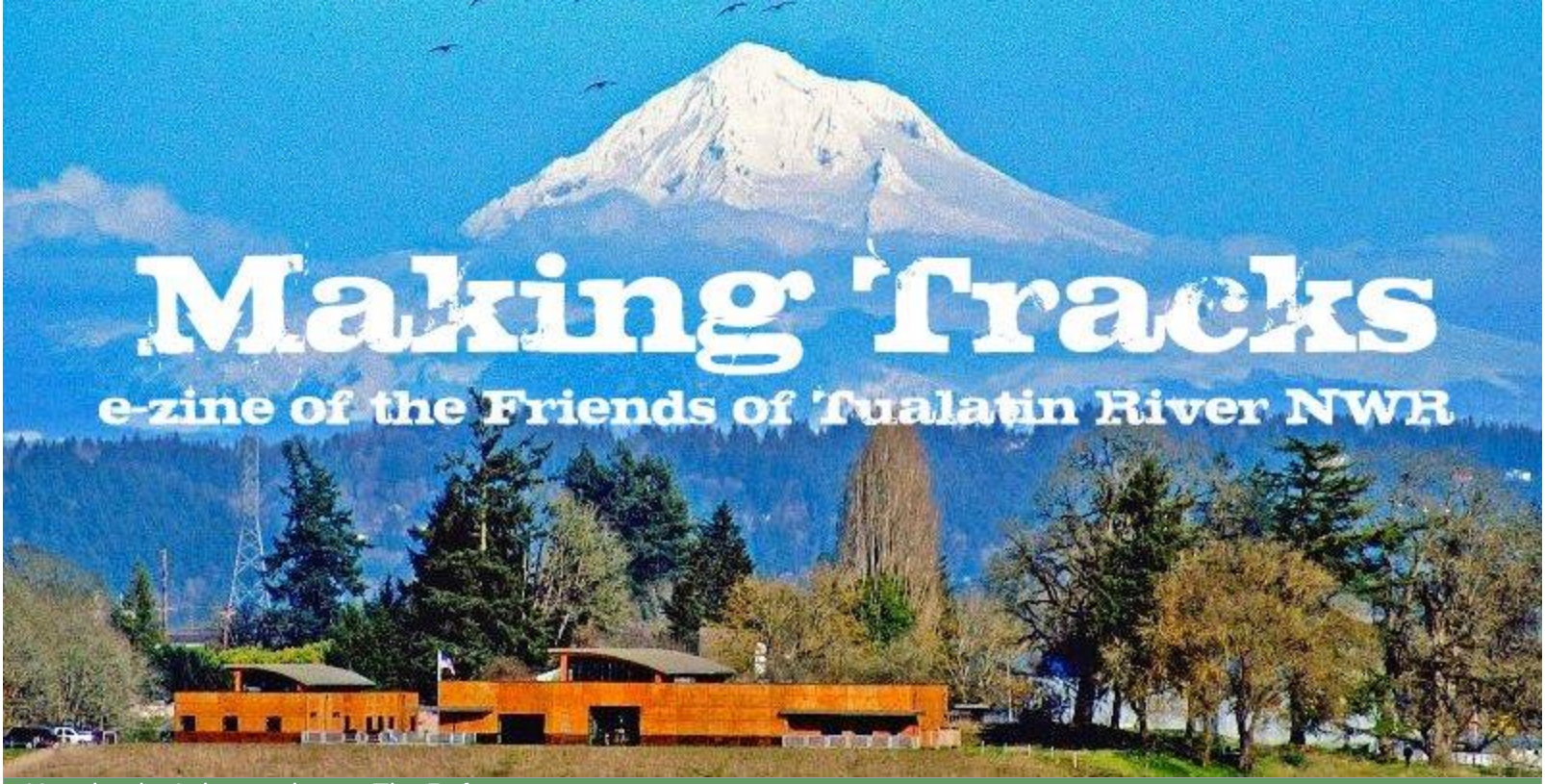

Here is what's happening on The Refuge.
Not a member? Click here to join now!

March 2016

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From the President's Perch

By Keith Mays, President of the Board

It is great to finally be able to say USF&W staff have returned to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, the remaining terrorists are in jail awaiting trial, and in the next few weeks the refuge should once again be open to the public to enjoy.

Friends of TRNWR hope to schedule a trip to Malheur later this year to participate in one of their many work parties. I hope you are able to join the trip and/or go separately to Malheur this year to show support for our public lands.

I am very proud of the many law enforcement professionals involved at Malheur the past few months as well as all of those that protect and serve our communities around Oregon! I want to thank each of them and their families for their service to Oregonians.

Last month Friends of TRNWR delivered the new tool trailer (full of tools) to staff at our refuge. This donation to the refuge was made possible due to the generosity of our members. This tool trailer will help members, refuge volunteers and staff to do more and be more efficient in restoration work at the refuge. Once a design is complete, later this year, we will also “wrap” the trailer, so it will be clear who owns the trailer but also show a reason (or two) why we do what we do.

Tree planting and restoration work parties happen on a regular basis. If you want to get some fresh air and some exercise, please take this as an invitation to participate, give it a try and join the other friends and volunteers.

The 20th annual Bird Festival is May 21, 2016. Contact us If you want to help Bird Festival be the best one yet or if you just want to support your refuge, please consider becoming a sponsor, as an individual, a family, your business, employer or organization.

Also mark you calendar for May 16th. An evening with Joe Wiegand, the nation’s premiere Theodore Roosevelt reprisor. More details to follow.

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

This Month's Events

Second Saturday Work Party
March 12 8:45AM-1:00PM

Store Committee Meeting
March 3 at 5:00pm
Riparian Room

Photo Society Meeting
March 3 7:00-9:00PM
Riparian Room

Puddle Stompers
March 9 1:00PM-2:30PM
March 29 10-11:30

Friends Board Meeting
March 22, 6:30PM

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.

Become an Emerald Patron for the 20th Annual alatin River Bird Festival May 21, 2016

onor of the 20th Anniversary, we are looking for 20 Emerald Patrons to be part of this essive milestone celebration!

rald Patrons make a tax deductible contribution of $100. Patrons can be individuals, couples milies that would like the opportunity to show their personal support for this wonderful family dly community event. Emerald Patrons will be listed by name (although anonymous ations are also welcome) in our commemorative program and the Friends' Annual Report. will also receive a very limited edition Emerald Green Bird Festival baseball cap. If you are

ested, please contact Bonnie Anderson in the Friends office at (503) 625-5944 (503) 5944 x227 or Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org

e are many other sponsorship opportunities for corporate and business with many benefits. this link for more information: Festival_Sponsorship.pdf

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March 22, 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

Learn more about Wapato Lake

Tualatin Riverkeepers is hosting a talk about Wapato Lake at a brewpub in Tigard. Author Ken Bilderback will be sharing stories from his forthcoming book, Wapato Lake: Oregon History as Viewed From a Swamp.

For more information go to Tualatin Riverkeepers Event

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Presidential Service Awards

Friends Awarded the Presidential Service Awards for 2015 Volunteer Hours.

52 Friends members are invited to the March Friends' Board meeting on Tuesday the 22nd at 6:30PM to receive their official President's Volunteer Service Award Pin, a personalized Certificate of Achievement and a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States.

This is the third year that The Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge will be honoring our Friends 'volunteers. Qualifying Friends' volunteer hours have been tracked from January 2015 through December 2015 for all Friends volunteers who fill out and submit a record of their time. Qualifying hour include time spent volunteering for the Refuge and for the Friends' organization.

Here is the list of our award winners by category for 2015. Youth is under age 14, young adults age 15-24 and adult is over the age of 25.

Gold Level Youth - volunteered 100 hours or more
- **Blair Anderson**

Bronze Level Young Adult- volunteered between 100-174 hours
- **Riley Burnett**

Bronze Level Adult -volunteered between 100-249 hours
- **Barbara Allen, Berk Moss, Bob Emmerich, Bob Swanson, Bob Try, Bobbie Allaire, David Collin, Gary Fawver, Irene Vlach, Janet Davis, Janice Koster, Jennifer Bennett, Joan Try, John Gendron, Judith Doyle, Judy Silverforb, Keith Mays, Kristi Al-Rashidi, Larry Harrington, Laura Grubaugh, Linda Kilgore, Mike Burnett, Pat Allaire, Pattie Beaven, Paula McCall, Ruthann Panck, Steve Runnels, Sue Sutter, Sandra Reid, Tom Shreve, Vern Johnson, and Willem Stoeller**

Silver Level Adults -volunteered between 250-499 hours
- **Bob Fuquay, Bonnie Anderson, James Barrows, Marilyn Ellis, Marty Clancy, Mary French, Mike Skinner , Pam Farris, Richard Bennett, Robin Harrower and Stan Carovano**

Gold Level Adults -volunteered over 500 hours
- **Cheryl Hart, Georgianna Burnett, Dawn Carovano, Doug Niwa, Tom Hartz, Virginia Maffitt and Sharon Miller**

The Friends are again tracking hour for 2016, so please make sure that you turn in your hours that you volunteer for the Refuge and for the Friends. Volunteer hour tracking is extremely important to both the Friends and the Refuge. These hours are used to support grants, so please make sure that they are getting counted. If you are not sure if they are being counted, contact the Friends office and we can check.

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Nature's Overlook

"Wear" in the World

Cheryl Hart taken at Inle Lake, Burma with Tour Director, Soe

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Bag It Forward--Great News!

The Friends have been selected to be one of the first partners in a new "Bag It Forward" ram 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.

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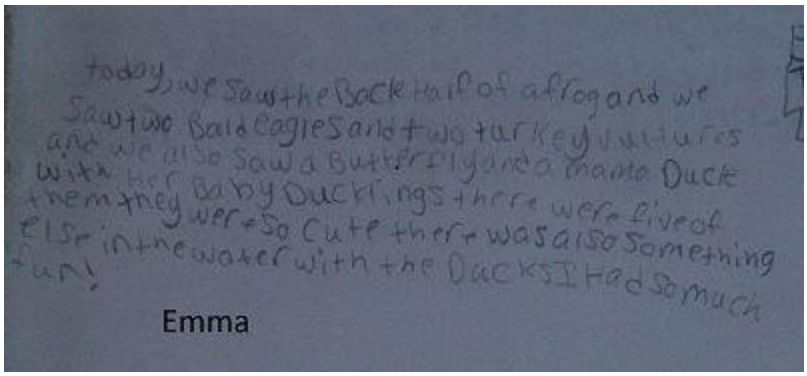
Kids' Corner!

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



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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.

Why is there a rough-skinned newt on that beaver's head? Talk to a volunteer Trail Rover to find out.

Photo taken at Tualatin River Unit by Debbie Blackmore

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News from Environmental Education Programs

Enrichment Opportunities Open to Public:

<u>Second Saturday Work Party</u>

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

For our March 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) to get signed in and to grab some breakfast snacks and hot hocolate/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 with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Puddle Stompers

Wednesday, March 9 1:00-2:30 Wait List Only
Thursday, March 29 10:00-11:30 Wait List Only

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

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Trail Update

If you haven't heard we have a new bald eagles nest near the riparian forest! Due to the National Bald Eagle Guidelines, we are closing the year-round trail through the riparian forest. The good news, aside from a new nest, is the seasonal trail beyond the river overlook and the photo blind trail are now open. This is an exciting opportunity to explore parts of the refuge normally closed this time of year. Please see trail map below for further details.

Based on observations, our biologists believe it is the same breeding pair that have used the original nest in years past. We do not know if the eagles will be laying eggs, only time will tell. We will do our best to communicate updates as we have them. If you have any questions, please ask!

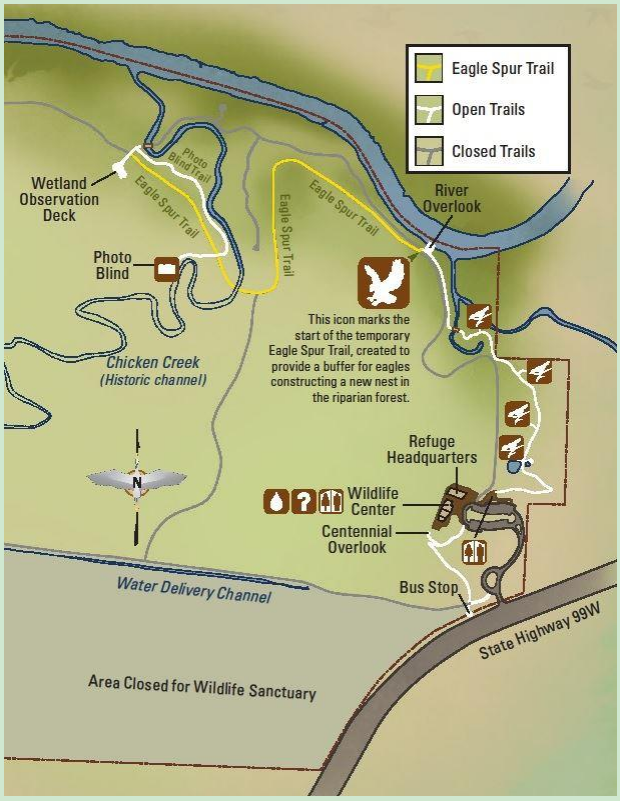

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Photo Society Juried Photo Display

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 make 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 for clarification, specifications and answers.

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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. 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.

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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 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 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!?

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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