

# 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!](#)

July 2016

## In This Issue

[President's Perch](#)

[Oak savanna changes](#)

[Drone policy](#)

[Nature Camp](#)

[Nature's Overlook Store](#)

[Kids' Corner](#)

[Wildlife Center](#)

[Env Education News](#)

[Fred Meyer Rewards](#)

[Smile while you shop](#)

## From the President's Perch

*By Keith Mays, President of the Board*

Summer is here and kids (and adults) have more time to enjoy the outdoors. I believe our weather from now until October is among the best in the country (in my opinion). Be sure to enjoy it.

Summer of 2016 is the 10th anniversary of our Refuge being open to the public. It is almost hard to remember what it was like before we had public access. Back then you gained access to the Refuge only when you volunteered to work.

For July and August there are even more things happening on the Refuge. Projects and events abound (see the rest of the newsletter). July means Summer Camp. It is going to be awesome for those signed up for camp at the Refuge this year. Please Note: As I write this – there are a few spots left for camp. Registration information can be found in this newsletter.

At least three new things are happening this summer at our Refuge:

1. Thinning some Oregon White Oaks is needed. They were planted on four acres 10 years ago and many more trees survived than expected (our volunteers and partners clearly did a great job planting them). While it is the first project to thin trees we planted for restoration at TRNWR – after planning tens of thousands of trees each year for 20 years – it won't be the last time some thinning will be needed.
2. A prescribed burn is planned for small field (not near the visitor's center). This action is to help with Refuge restoration (another first for our refuge). Prescribed fire on refuges is a very common tool for refuge



JOIN



DONATE

Check us out on our social media channels



## This Month's Events

Second Saturday Work Party  
July 9, 8:45AM-12:00PM

Store Committee Meeting  
July 7 at 5:00pm  
Riparian Room

Tracking with Seth  
July 16, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Bioswale Work Party  
July 22, 9AM-11AM

Friends Board Meeting  
July 26 6:30PM  
July 26 7:00PM business meeting

**Please see our Friends website calendar for more details.**

## 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

managers. USFWS will have lots of information available for our volunteers, Friends members, our neighbors and area partners so everyone understands what is being done and why it's being done.

3. Rock Creek restoration project phase one begins. This is an area between 99W and Tualatin-Sherwood Road. Clean Water Services, working with Refuge staff, will relocate 5,500+ feet of sewer line away from Rock Creek this summer. Once all phases are complete, this area of Rock Creek will no longer look like a straight ditch but rather like a natural wandering creek.

It is bittersweet when a Friends staff member or USFWS staff member at our refuge leaves us for another job. July 8th is the last day for Trevor Sheffels. Trevor has worked for both organizations and done a fantastic job. I was not surprised to learn he was getting promoted. Trevor is going to be the Assistant Refuge Manager at Conboy Lake NWR north of Hood River. Congratulations!! Trevor will be in another beautiful part of the northwest to work and continue raising his growing family.

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.

## OAK SAVANNA is headed for new horizons

By Rachel Dunham

Starting in July you'll start to see some changes in the Oak Savanna. First of all, the Oak Savanna isn't really an oak savanna at all. Oak savannas are characterized by widely spaced oak trees, about one or two trees per acre, surrounded by native grasses. Our "Oak savanna" is only four acres and has 100 oak trees per acre! Much more than a savanna can support and it is full of invasive grasses and years of built up thatch (dead plant material).

You might be wondering how all those oaks got there in the first place and why there are so many. The Oregon white oaks were planted 15 years ago. When doing any large scale planting, it is important to consider the probability of survival. It was not expected for all of the planted oak trees to survive and to our surprise, do so well. While this may seem like good news, the oaks are now too densely packed and overcrowded, which will likely lead to stunted growth.

As a National Wildlife Refuge, we actively restore, maintain, and protect healthy native habitats for wildlife and people. So, in order to create healthier habitat for the Oregon white oaks and allow the remaining oaks to thrive we need to remove some of the trees. Otherwise, the overall health of the ecosystem will be compromised. Our plan is to remove about 50% of the trees during the third week of July. Future management goals are to restore the area back to a mixed forest, which will include Oregon white oaks but also foster a more diverse native forest community.

If you have any questions, please contact Curt Mykut, Refuge Biologist:  
[richard\\_mykut@fws.gov](mailto:richard_mykut@fws.gov).

[return to top](#)

# Drone policy

Drones are ONLY to be used by the Refuge for refuge management and must be done by an approved and licensed FAA operator. Public use of drones are prohibited on the refuge.



[return to top](#)

SUMMER 2016

# Nature Camp

Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

**Explore Your Local Wildlife Refuge This Summer!**

**WHO:** Youth entering 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade the fall of 2016

**WHEN:** 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
July 11 - 15 OR July 25 - 29

**HOW MUCH:** \$95 - includes: nature camp hat, snacks, & photos taken by camper. *Scholarships available to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch at \$25 per session*

**Eagles and Frogs and Deer Oh My!**

Youth entering grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to spend a week at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, connecting with nature and exploring the outdoors with all five senses! This week long program will feature high quality environmental education and arts activities, including an emphasis on photography and nature journaling. Families will be able to follow along with a camp blog, featuring daily highlights. Only 25 spots per session~ Register Today!

Refuge Address: 19255 SW Pacific Hwy  
Sherwood, OR 97140

[return to top](#)

## Nature's Overlook Store

### Help Wanted

Do you enjoy reading books about nature? Do you have a few extra hours each month to volunteer as our Nature's Overlook Book Buyer?

Requirements:

- Review both adult and children's books on nature
- Work with the Friends liaison to gain approval for new books
- Work with existing book vendors and identify new vendors for appropriate books

- Place orders, process orders when received and enter items in store computer
- Write one book review per month for our newsletter
- Be a member of Friends

The current buyer, Kristie Al Rashidi, will be happy to train you for this job. If you are interested, please let Rachel Dunham know, call the Friends office or talk to Sharon Miller, Store Manager. We'd love to have you be a part of our team!

---

## "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@friendsoftulatinrefuge.org](mailto:info@friendsoftulatinrefuge.org) and you might just be in the next Making Tracks e-newsletter.

[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@friendsoftulatinrefuge.org](mailto:members@friendsoftulatinrefuge.org)



[return to top](#)

# Wildlife Center, Trail Rover & Interpretive Program

## Visitor Services Program Update

Big thanks to all our volunteers who help connect visitors to the refuge every day. We have an amazing team.

## Trail Rover Highlights

Lazuli bunting and Western tanager

John G: "Met visitors from Israel; they loved seeing the American Bald Eagle."

Larry H: "A vole swam (dog-paddled) across a section of the pond."

by Rachel Dunham, Friends Wildlife Center and Interpretive Program Coordinator  
[return to top](#)

## News from Environmental Education Programs

### Enrichment Opportunities Open to Public:

#### Second Saturday Work Party

Second Saturday Restoration Work Party Saturday, July 9, 8:45 AM – 12 PM

Looking for a way to get involved in restoration? Come out to our Second Saturday restoration work party! For our July party we will be removing invasive Tansy and helping to improve habitat for native wildlife.

We will meet at refuge HQ at 8:45 am to get checked in and head to our work site around 9 am. Snacks and work gloves will be provided. Please wear sturdy shoes and pants and bring a water bottle. Plan for hot weather.

Email any questions to Habitat Restoration Specialist Sarah Williams at: [SWilliams@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:SWilliams@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)

#### Early Morning Birdwalk

First Saturday of every month

8:00AM-10:00AM

Walk out on the refuge with an experienced birder and discover the world of birds. Whether you are a first time birder or an expert, this walk is for you!

Please bring binoculars and/or a scope if you have them! Extras will be provided.

To participate you must be 8 years of age or older and parents must accompany all children on hikes. The hikes will cover over two miles and take approximately 2 hours.

Limited space available; please register. For more information e-mail [Rachel Dunham](mailto:Rachel.Dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org).

### **Tracking with Seth**

Saturday, July 16th (Seth's Birthday!)

10 AM – 12 PM, Meet outside the Wildlife Center

Come learn common wildlife tracks and sign of the Refuge. How many toes does it have? How was it moving? Why was it here? We will practice foot morphology and track gaits and then go out in to the forest and search for signs of animals that have left clues behind for us to find. Limited space available. To register, please e-mail: [Rachel\\_dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:Rachel_dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)

### **Bioswale Work Party Friday, July 22nd**

9 AM – 11 AM At the Refuge

Help us maintain our Bioswale! Spend some time outdoors, learning about plants, and contributing to removing toxins from runoff.

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

Questions? E-mail Rachel Dunham [Rachel\\_dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:Rachel_dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)

### **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](#)



**YOU CAN HELP Friends of TRNWR EARN DONATIONS JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARD!** We have XXXXX members signed up already and have received \$XXXX in 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.

\*\*Note: Fred Meyer Community Rewards Customer Re-enrollment began on June 1, 2016 and goes through June 30, 2016. Friends of TRNWR supporters who have their Rewards Card linked to Friends of TRNWR will be notified about the re-enrollment process via an email that will easily allow them to choose to re-link their Rewards Card to Friends of TRNWR. Please note that all households that do not re-enroll during this period will be dropped on July 1st. Friends of TRNWR supporters may still re-link their Rewards Card online after the re-enrollment period by visiting: [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards).

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](http://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 x227

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