

# 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!](#)

August 2016

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## From the President's Perch

*By Keith Mays, President of the Board*

It is hard to believe that the Friends' Annual meeting is around the corner – September 24th. Mark it on your calendar. Just like last year, we will have a morning event for Friends members to see a part of the refuge not normally open to the public, more details to follow. As I prepare for the meeting, I began reflecting on this past year as President of the Friends. 2016 has been a wonderful year to celebrate conservation locally and nationally. The 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty – signed on August 16, 1916 – between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada). This summer was our 20th annual Bird Festival at TRNWR and we celebrate that it has been 10 years since our Refuge has been open to the public – including the wildlife center.



In 2016 the Friends began a rebranding process that resulted in a new logo and our tag line "Joyfully Connecting Our Community with the Wonder of Nature." Come into Nature's Overlook Store to see our new logo gear. Get yours today, if you haven't already. Friends' membership has its privileges – one being a discount on store purchases. If you are not already a member, join today!

So many wonderful things to celebrate this year, yet January 2016 was also when our sister refuge, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, was taken over by misguided individuals, domestic terrorists, and illegally occupied for many weeks – damaging community assets, wildlife habitat, and cultural artifacts. The impact on the community, impact on refuge staff and volunteers was also extreme.

We, as Friends members, volunteers and supporters of our Refuge system and USFWS, must continue our advocacy work, locally and nationally, to promote the value of public lands to our community, our country and our global environment.

▶ JOIN

▶ DONATE

October 2016 also marks the end of the first year of the USFWS Urban Program for our Portland Metro Region. The Urban Program, housed here at Tualatin River, is a wonderful program to better connect Portland/Vancouver area residents to the Refuge system and natural areas.

Congratulations to Sarah Gray (USFWS staffer at TRNWR) and her husband Sam with the birth of their daughter Anne! As Cheryl exclaimed – “another conservationist is added to our ranks” – and what a wonderful addition she is!

Big thanks to REI, our sponsor this year for National Public Lands Day (NPLD). We will celebrate NPLD on September 10th. Mark it on your calendars, more details to follow.

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful Friends members and volunteers to support our Refuge and our community. If you are interested in serving on a committee or joining the Friends Board, please let us know. Email: [President@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:President@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org).

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.

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## Caught on Camera

Did you know that we have remote cameras set up on the refuge? Below are some photos of coyote pups.



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## Tualatin River NWR goes to Arctic NWR by Erin Holmes, Refuge Manager

I recently had the honor of traveling to Alaska to accompany several members of the Friends of Alaska and the Yukon Flats NWR Refuge Manager, Steve Berendzen, on a trip to the Arctic NWR. In an effort to expand the Friends of Alaska’s membership and partnership into Fairbanks, the Refuge Managers (Steve Berendzen and Brian Glaspell) of Yukon Flats NWR and Arctic NWR, invited several Friends of Alaska members and other USFWS employees, to meet, exchange ideas, and bond on this incredible trip. It was a great group and I was so impressed and inspired by the passion of the Friends and their experience in advocacy and championing for the natural resources of Alaska.

I really enjoyed learning about the diversity of members and their experiences, and the various projects they engage in on a state-wide level. We had many great conversations and discussions during the trip, some of them led to bouts of belly shaking laughter and others led to more serious moments as we pondered the future of conservation. I was proud to share with them my experience working with the Friends of Tualatin River NWR and all the wonderful things you do. While some of the projects may vary between the groups, there is one common bond that you both share...and that is a love for the outdoors, the land, and the National Wildlife Refuge System. I am so grateful to have Friends like you.

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### This Month's Events

Early Morning Bird Walk  
August 6, 8:AM-10:00AM

Second Saturday Work Party  
August 13, 8:45AM-12:00PM

Store Committee Meeting  
August 4 at 5:00pm  
Riparian Room

Bioswale Work Party  
August 19, 9AM-11AM

Friends Board Meeting  
August 23 6:30PM  
August 23 7:00PM business  
meeting

Prescribed Fire and  
Conservation  
August 31, 6:30PM

**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](#)

## The Urban Program: Growing Together with Friends



A big hello from the Urban Refuge Support Team of Kim, Jenny, Pat, and Mesha; and thanks to everyone who lent us their ears at the last Board meeting. It was our pleasure to share the progress of the Urban Refuge Program to date and hint at a vision of where to go from here. It was equally exciting to have a conversation reinforcing the commitment of the Friends and Service taking this journey together.

The Support Team is now wading into strategic planning, as the original “bold, hairy, audacious ideas” of the Urban Challenge proposal come closer to fruition. One immediate part of that strategy is to maintain close communication with our partners. You’ll find us regularly in this space of the newsletter and we’ll continue to engage with the Board at future meetings.

We also invite you to check out the online hub for the Portland-Vancouver Urban Refuge Program at [www.fws.gov/refuge/Tualatin\\_River/Urban](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Tualatin_River/Urban). We’ve recently updated the information to align with the structure and stories of the 2015 Annual Report by highlighting the four Urban Refuges, sharing stories of achievement in the Program’s focus areas, and taking a stab at summarizing the USFWS Urban Standards of Excellence. You’ll also find contact information for the entire Support Team and we welcome you to reach out to us anytime.

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## Malheur Work Party

Are you interested in participating in a work party at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge? Our Friends group is working with the Malheur Friends group and Refuge staff to put together a much need work party sometime in the next two months. We are considering an upcoming weekend to drive out to Malheur and really help them get back on their feet. All participants would participate at their own expense, but carpooling could be an option. Please contact [Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org](mailto:Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org) if you are interested in helping coordinate the work party or if you have availability in late Aug or September. Be on the lookout for more details.

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# Creative Nature Camp

Creative Nature Camp was a great success! For two weeks Campers, Junior Assistants, Camp Assistants and Volunteer Naturalist explored the refuge, finding ways to connect with nature. Campers were trained from our experts in a wide range of subjects, including nature photography, bird biology, mammal adaptations, journaling and much more. If you are interested in seeing what a day in the life at Nature Camp looks like, check out the daily camp blogs:

[Nature Camp Session1 blog](#)

[Nature Camp Session2 blog](#)

Thank you to the Friends of the Refuge and all the volunteers who made this camp happen!

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## Nature's Overlook

### 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. Below, Erin Holmes, Refuge Manager, proudly shows the new Friends logo while on a trip to Arctic NWR (see article above).



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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](mailto:members@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)



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## **Wildlife Center, Trail Rover & Interpretive Program**

### **Visitor Services Program Update**

The Regal Courier wrote about a school field trip at the refuge this May. Two of our Volunteer Naturalists, Gary F and Don H were leading the trip. To read the article, click on the link below:

[Regal Courier school field trip](#)

### **Trail Rover Highlights**

Larry H: "A lady teared up on me after I was able to help her find Lazuli buntings which she had been seeking for 25 years. It made her day!"

Ella C: "Too many nutria including 2 pups playing and fighting in the water."

by Rachel Dunham, Friends Wildlife Center and Interpretive Program Coordinator

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## **News from Environmental Education Programs**

### **Enrichment Opportunities Open to Public:**

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

Second Saturday Restoration Work Party  
August 13, 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 August party we will be removing invasive plants 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**

August 6, 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).

### **Bioswale Work Party Friday, August 19**

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)

### **Prescribed Fire and Conservation**

Wednesday, August 31st

6:30 PM

At the Refuge

Hear from fire expert, Laila Lienesch, Deputy Project Leader at Willamette Valley NWR Complex. Laila will share her experience with working on prescribed fires and the benefits to conservation. Please join us! Please register by e-mailing 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)

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## **YOU CAN HELP Friends of TRNWR EARN DONATIONS JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARD!**

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 1. 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).

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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](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!?

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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**

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