

Making Tracks

e-zine of the Friends of Tualatin River NWR

Here is what's happening on The Refuge.
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September 2016

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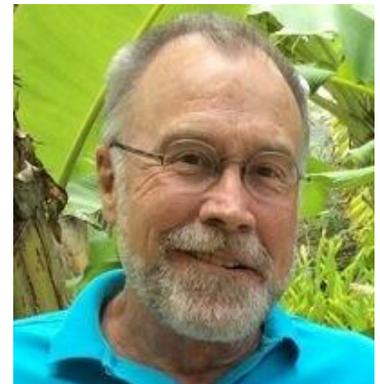
From the President's Perch

By Tom Hartz, President Elect of the Board

Hello, Keith Mays suggested that I introduce myself to the Friends via the September Newsletter. For those who don't know who I am this "personal introduction" may be timely, with the Annual Meeting taking place later this month.

I'm Tom Hartz. I've been serving as the President Elect of the Friends since October 2015. Next month, I will follow in the footsteps of Keith Mays and Cheryl Hart as President. They have set the bar pretty high. Keith will move into the role of Past President and Cheryl has joined the Board of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. A new President Elect will be elected in October.

I'm a scientist by training. I retired in mid-2013 after 35 years in Research and Development of Medical Devices and Diagnostic Products. I've been a member of the Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge since May 2014. Like many of the local population, I passed the refuge on the Pacific Highway dozens of times before making the turn onto to property in the fall of 2013. I was a few months into my retirement and was looking for ways to occupy my time. I fell in love with our refuge on my first visit and quickly began investigating ways to get involved. I met John Marsh, the Chair of the Friends Governance Committee, who suggested that I learn more about the Friends by looking into some of its programs. The Bird Festival, Summer Youth Camp, and Public Lands Day quickly sold me on the organization. Berk Moss, who was then the Chair of the Education Committee, agreed to guide me through the Volunteer Naturalist Training program, and certified me as a Naturalist. I was invited to serve on the Friends Board in October 2014.



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[Friends Social Media](#)



This Month's Events

National Public Lands Day
September 10, 10am-3pm

Second Saturday Work Party
September 10, 8:30AM-12:00PM

Annual Meeting
September 24,

7:30am Refuge Walk

9:00am Breakfast

9:45am Business Meeting

10:30 Program

Friends Board Meeting
September 27 6:30PM
September 27 7:00PM
business meeting

Please see our Friends website calendar for more details.

Getting involved with the Friends has been a wonderful decision. I've had the privilege of getting to know the amazing Fish and Wildlife Service staff at the refuge. Erin Holmes, the Site Project Manager, has shown me several of the TRNWR sites beyond that opened to the public. I worked with Friends employees Jenna Mendenhall and now Seth Winkelhake in the Environmental Education Program. I walk with educators and students on school field trips and with other groups of interested people, sharing the year-round beauty of the refuge and pointing out cool things to pique the interest of our visitors. I work with the Summer Camp Committee and write the daily camp blog that appears on the Friends website. I participate in the Photo Society Planning meeting, admittedly to get some tips from the very talented photographers we have among our membership.

September is an exciting time. Kids are returning to school, the days are getting shorter, the weather is cooling, and we're beginning to get some rain. National Lands Day is September 10 and the Friends Annual Meeting is September 24. Hopefully those dates are on your calendar to visit the refuge. The Service is preparing for the prescribed fire in early October, a part of the continuing process to restore refuge habitats. Soon we'll see the wetlands begin to fill with water and the start of the annual fall bird migration. Nicely located on the Pacific Flyway, we host as many as 20,000 migrating birds every day during the height of the migration.

We support a special place at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Because of our proximity to a large population of people, our refuge is one of the original Urban Refuges. Kim Strassburg and her FWS staff are working to develop programs to extend the reach of the Refuge into the community. The TRNWR has been recognized as a leader among the network of refuges across the United States in developing and modeling programs to help the country better appreciate and preserve wildlife and the environment.

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful Friends members and volunteers to support our refuge and our community. Without you, the refuge would not exist and our many programs would not be possible. If you are interested in serving on a committee or joining the Friends Board, please let us know. Email: president@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

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National Public Lands Day

Do you love nature? Come celebrate National Public Lands Day and our 10 year anniversary of being open to the public! This is a great opportunity to learn about the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge and be a part of our story.

Restoration Work Party

8:30AM - 12:00PM

Meet at the Refuge, get a free T-shirt and support the Refuge thru restoration.

Activities

10:00AM - 3:00PM

Join in the fun by taking part in many activities

- Refuge Adventure Quest
- Crafts
- Fire Truck
- Refuge Video
- And More!

Questions? Email Rachel_Dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org•

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Annual Meeting

Registration required. Please register at [Friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://friendsoftualatinrefuge.org) web site by SEPTEMBER 16th to assist us with meal planning.

All Friends Members are invited to attend our annual meeting and associated activities. Members may invite guests as space allows. New members are welcome to join at the door and attend all activities.

Not a member yet? Join now!

For questions or registration assistance, please contact us at (503) 625-5944 ext227 or info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

Schedule of Activities

7:30 Refuge Walk with Erin Holmes, Refuge Manager

Arrive early at the shop off Roy Rogers Rd ready for weather, uneven terrain, and possibly muddy conditions. The walk will begin promptly at 7:30am. Erin will lead a 1/2-mile walk in an area of the Refuge that is normally closed to the public. This area was part of a restoration project several years ago and provides an opportunity to see results of previous restoration efforts.

.....
9:00 Continental Breakfast and Refuge Slideshow

There will be a \$10 charge for guests and non-members to cover the cost of breakfast. Fee will be collected at the time of entry.

.....
9:45 Friends Business Meeting

During the meeting we will elect Board members, review Bylaws revisions, and announce Volunteers of the Year

.....
10:30 Program

Erin Holmes, Refuge Manager, will share some of the big events on the Refuge during 2016 and answer questions about upcoming activities, such as, the prescribed burn, filling the carp hole, and the Rock Creek pipeline project.

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Where is the Eagle's Nest

Some of you may have noticed something missing in our prominent oak tree; our beloved eagle's nest has fallen. With the supporting branches rotting and the nest falling apart, it came down mid-August.

With little structure remaining, there was nothing left to salvage for educational purposes. Now it will remain under the tree to provide habitat for small mammals, insects and other critters.

For more information on the nest, go to the Refuge Facebook page and watch Seth Winkelhake and Sarah Williams at the scene!

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Trucks, Dirt, and Carp

You might be wondering why a truck is moving dirt around the Refuge. One of the drainage ditches was cleaned, leaving a mound of dirt behind. That dirt is being

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](#)

relocated to fill the carp hole, otherwise known as the tiny pond in view from the Wildlife Center. Carp, an invasive species of fish, uses the pond for refuge in the summer. The goal is to use the dirt and extirpate carp from the pond by filling it. Our goal is to leave water in that area year round.

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Bats on the Refuge

A few months ago, acoustic monitoring equipment was set up on three different units of the Refuge to detect what bat species are present. This is part of a larger national effort to monitor and conserve bats, known as the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat). The monitoring equipment detects species based on the frequency of their echolocation. Bats use echolocation for ease of flying and to hunt for insects. Here are the preliminary results of species present on the Refuge. Bat experts will be further analyzing the results in the coming months; a few frequencies were not identified in the preliminary results.

California myotis

Yuma myotis

Hoary bat

Little brown bat

Silver-haired bat

Long-eared myotis

Big brown bat (picture at right)

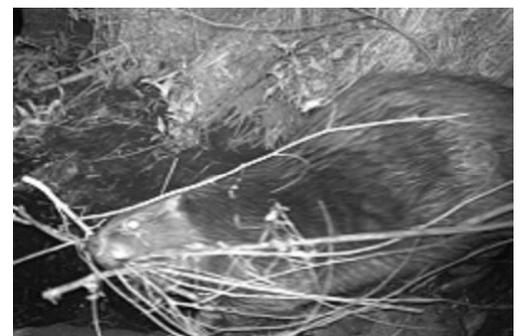


by Curt Mykut, Refuge Biologist

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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 a mink and a beaver.



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Tualatin River NWR Prescribed Burn

This fall, our Refuge has the opportunity to explore the use of prescribed fire as a tool for restoration. This is also a very exciting opportunity for the public to learn more about the benefits of using prescribed fire and an opportunity to view it. Below are all of the details, along with answers to any questions you may have.

[09-16 TR Prescribed Burn2.FINAL.web .pdf](#)

Check the FWS website for updates: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Tualatin_River/
For questions contact Erin Holmes: tualatinriver@fws.gov

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The Urban Program: Good Things Come to Those Who Bait



If that pun wasn't enough for you, here's one that's a little more to the point of this month's Urban Refuge Support Team nugget: "A reel expert can tackle anything."

.By now, you've probably caught on (there we go again) that we're talking about fishing. It's an activity that ranges from pastime to art form, depending on who you ask – but that's not exactly why we're talking about it here. What we really want to highlight are the growing relationships between our Urban Refuges and two outstanding organizations that firmly believe in nature's ability, specifically through fishing, to empower at-risk youth to envision a positive future.

Soul River Inc. has partnered with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the past three years to put on Celebration of Wild Steelhead, a neighborhood park event that encourages young people from culturally diverse and income-challenged communities to try out fly fishing for the first time. The big picture for Soul River and its Founder, Chad Brown, is forming healing, mentoring relationships between military veterans with PTSD and inner city youth who experience trauma in their daily lives. The park event is a terrific first step in that process, offering youth a taste of fly

fishing in a familiar, comfortable environment made all the more vibrant by live music, food, and partner activities.

Similarly, I'm Hooked uses fishing as a platform for positive youth development. The organization has hosted a two-day fishing event of the same name at Henry Hagg Lake near Gaston, OR since 1989! While the event is open to all, Director Wil Warren's primary motivation is offering nature as an alternative to negative influences many urban youth face. Over the years he has expanded his outreach from inner Portland to the suburbs of Washington County. Through a growing list of partners, I'm Hooked gets kids out on the lake in boats, entertains and educates them with other hands-on activities, and sends them home with a free rod and reel.

In addition to providing financial support, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has hosted activities at both events as a way of connecting budding anglers to the Service and other opportunities to experience nature close to home. Volunteer opportunities are many at both events, with Celebration of Wild Steelhead coming up soon on September 11th. I'm Hooked is a bit further out in June 2017. Contact Kim Strassburg at kim_strassburg@fws.gov if you're interested in helping us spread the good word about our Urban Refuges at either event.

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Nature's Overlook

"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@friendsoftrnwr.org and you might just be in the next Making Tracks e-newsletter. Below, Representin' [Friends of the Refuge](#) at Yellowstone. — with the Stark Family at [Yellowstone National Park](#).



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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

Visitor Services Program Update

Great job by John G and Tobyn B for the amazing new Wildlife Center Entrance Exhibit! Our monthly bird walks have been packed full and we've had lots of visitors in the Wildlife Center.

Trail Rover Highlights

Donna N:One family has lived nearby for 25 years--this was their first time to stop by!

Herschel L:People visiting from Homer Alaska, mother and two teen aged sons, birders, gave highest praise for TRNWR

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
September 10, 8:30 AM – 12 PM

Looking for a way to get involved in restoration? Come out to our Second Saturday restoration work party! Get a free T-shirt and support the Refuge thru restoration.

We will meet at refuge HQ at 8:30 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

Bats of the Night

September 22, 6:30PM-8:30pm

Enjoy a presentation on bats by our very own expert, Eva Kristofik. Learn about the species, their biology and behavior. Then take a walk on the refuge to see the bats of the night! Limited space available; please register online at www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org. For more information e-mail Rachel Dunham at rachel_dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

Tracking Wildlife

September 25, 10:00am-11:30am

Do you ever come across animal tracks and scat? Do you wonder what animal left them there?

Learn from Certified Tracker, Seth Winkelhake, on how to identify the clues that animals leave behind! All are welcome!

For more information e-mail Seth Winkelhake.

Early Morning Birdwalk

October 1, 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:RachelDunham).

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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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. 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.

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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Remember, 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.

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