

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!](#)

October 2016

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From the President's Perch

By Keith Mays, President of the Board

On September 24, 2016 The Friends of the Refuge held their Annual Meeting. The day began with an early morning walk at the Dennis Unit, led by Refuge Manager Erin Holmes, highlighting the 5 – year restoration work that the Friends supported. Breakfast was served at 9 AM and members were treated to a slide show by Tom Hartz and music performed by Ginny Maffitt. Door prizes were handed out that included wine, new Friends' logo wear, goody bags and passes to the Columbia Employee Store. Thank you to our generous partners at Chehalem Winery and Columbia for their contributions to the door prizes.

The meeting included a recap of the year by President Keith Mays and a chance for each member to share why the Friends and the Refuge is so important to them. President Mays announced the volunteers of the year for the Friends. This year we honor Pam Farris, Kristi Al-Rashidi, John Gendron, Tobyn Bower and Willem Stoeller. Their names have been added to the plaque that hangs in the Wildlife Center. Congratulations and thank you for all of your contributions this past year. The membership voted to re-elect Board Members Cheryl Hart, Keith Mays and Bonnie Anderson to a three year term. The meeting was adjourned and Refuge Manager Erin Holmes provided an in depth recap of the year and what the future holds for Tualatin River NWR.

The Friends of the Refuge Annual Report was available during the meeting and can currently be viewed on the Friends' homepage. Please take time to look over the reports and accomplishments of the past year.

[Friends Social Media](#)



This Month's Events

Second Saturday Work Party

October 8, 8:30AM-12:00PM

Puddle Stompers: Fire on the Refuge

October 12, 1:00PM-2:30PM

Owl Prowl

October 12 & October 25

6:30PM-8:00PM

Puddle Stompers: Eagles

October 18, 10:00AM-11:30AM

Tracking Wildlife

October 23, 10:00AM-11:30AM

Friends Board Meeting

October 25 6:30PM
October 25 7:00PM
business meeting

All members that attended received a window cling with our new logo. If you were unable to make the meeting and would like a window cling, please stop by the Friends office to pick yours up.

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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The Water is Rising

In the next couple of weeks you'll notice some changes when you look to the west from the Wildlife Center. In early October, staff will begin directing water from a diversion structure on Chicken Creek to fill the Refuge's wetlands for migrating and wintering waterfowl. We refer to this as the annual flood-up. The schedule will be posted in the Wildlife Center soon, but expect wetlands 1P and 2P to begin flooding during the first half of October, and the larger 1S wetland during the latter half of October.

by Curt Mykut, Refuge Biologist



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Caught on Camera

This month, our wildlife camera caught multiple groups of raccoons using a creek bed on the Refuge. Raccoons use waterways and stream beds both for travel and hunting for food. Studies have shown that raccoons living in urban areas are better at problem solving, such as opening garbage cans and timing their movement opposite of human activity. An interesting documentary on the lives of urban raccoons can be seen here:

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](#)

[Urban Raccoon Lives](#)

by Seth Winkelhake, Friends Environmental Education Specialist



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Tualatin River NWR Prescribed Burn

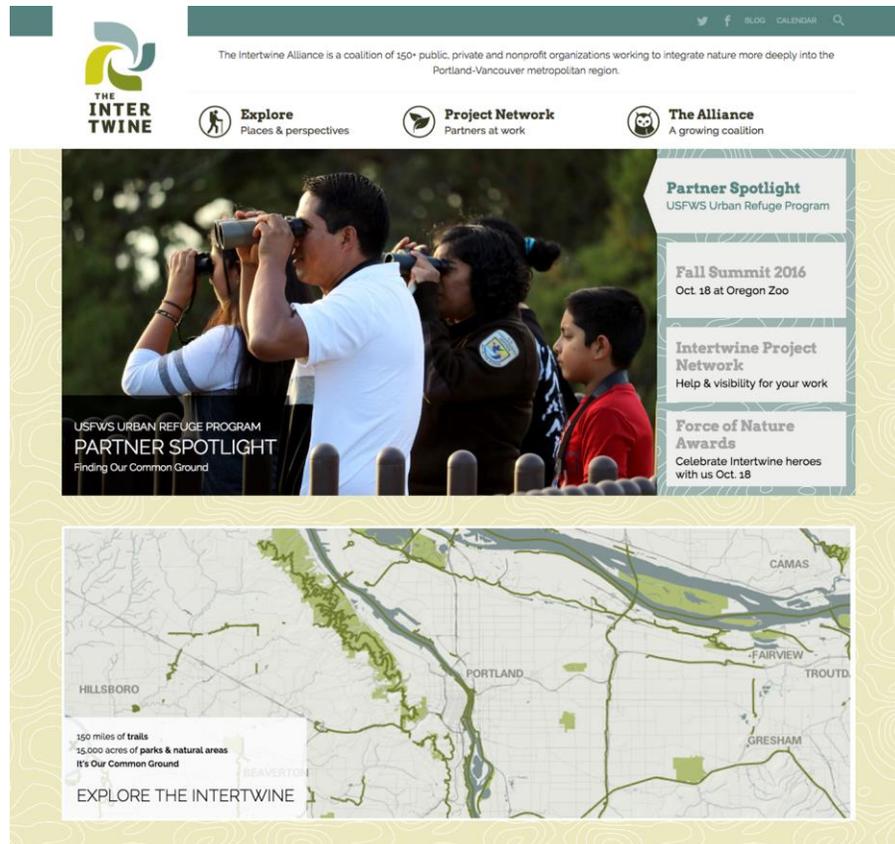
The prescribed fire took place on Thursday, September 29th. It was truly amazing to see a project that took years of planning, come together on a perfect day. We had many partners who made the fire possible including: Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, the Olympic National Park, Mt. Hood National Forest, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and our very own US Fish and Wildlife fire crew from Mid-Columbia NWR Complex. In the future, we hope to do use prescribed fire as a tool for restoration on other units of the Refuge.

For video and pictures go to:

[Prescribed fire photos](#)

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The Urban Program: Online Collaboration Gets a Makeover



Fall is pretty synonymous with change. Leaves take on different colors, wetlands fill with water and waterfowl, and people start looking a lot cuddlier in all those new layers of clothes. This month's Urban Refuge Support Team nugget recognizes another change in our community — a digital upgrade for one of the Portland-Vancouver area's largest environmental coalitions, The Intertwine Alliance.

If you visit theintertwine.org you'll find a new look and new way to navigate the area's greenspaces, Alliance projects, and partner organizations. Notable features include a brand new [interactive map](#) of parks and trails, an [events calendar](#) showcasing activities from across the Alliance's 150+ partners, and the [Outside Voice blog](#). Be sure to check out the [first blog post](#) of the new website, featuring the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and written by (and picturing) our very own Urban Refuge Support Team.

Are you asking a more basic question right now? Like, what's The Intertwine Alliance? No problem. This is a great opportunity to be [introduced](#). Click on the cute little owl next to "The Alliance" and you'll be taken to a wealth of information and see that the [USFWS](#), [Friends of Tualatin River NWR](#) and [Friends of Ridgefield NWR](#) are already Alliance partners.

In terms of the intersection with the Urban Refuge Program, the Intertwine Alliance has been a big part of our early years — forming a cornerstone of the proposal that resulted in the program and working with us to advance efforts in health & nature, equity & inclusion, environmental education, and public engagement. This new website, in fact, was one of the early investments of the Urban Refuge Program as

we sought new and innovative ways to support community coalitions. While we directly supported the project with funding and website design assistance, there is a lot of pride we can all take in this upgraded resource, as we are all part of making our Urban Refuges assets to the community.

If you're still wondering how helping to build a website advances conservation, we leave you with this excerpt from the aforementioned blog post:

"The Intertwine Alliance...thrives on its ability to convene and collaborate among groups working on common goals...the new website is a great step forward in supporting this collaborative spirit online. While perhaps not perfected, it is a tool that stands to benefit all of us, and was thus an easy choice for the Urban Program to get behind."

Questions and feedback about the website are welcome. And if you'd like to discuss edits to the profile pages for the Friends, feel free to contact Patrick Stark at patrick_stark@fws.gov.

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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@friendsoftulatinrefuge.org and you might just be in the next Making Tracks e-newsletter.

John Schweitzer and his mother Marylu are visiting National Wildlife Refuges in New England this month and showing their Friends' pride along the way. Here they are at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge and on another day at Wapack National Wildlife Refuge.

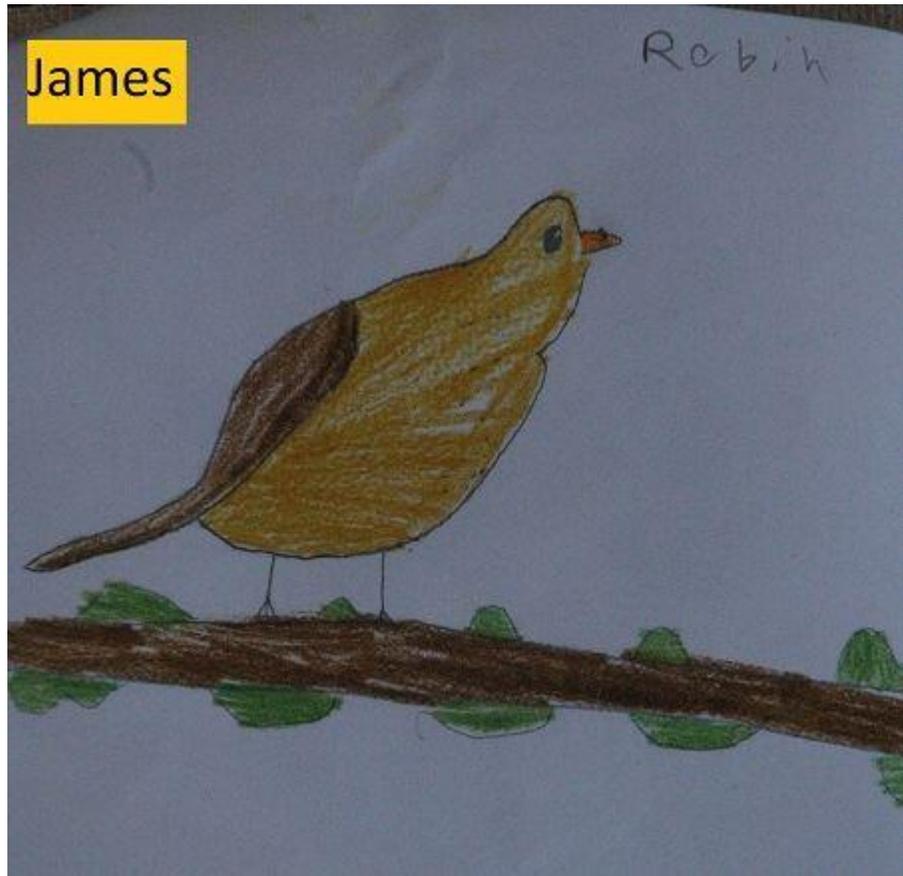


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Kids' Corner!

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

Tracking station: formerly known as the sandbox
We have new sand! With the help of the youth conservation corps members, who were at the Refuge for four weeks this summer, we removed all the play box sand that originally installed by the contractor. In its place, we refilled it with beach sand, which is great for holding the shape of tracks. Look for changes in the future as the area becomes more engaging and interactive for visitors.

by Seth Winkelhake, Friends Environmental Education Specialist



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News from Environmental Education Programs

Enrichment Opportunities Open to Public:

Second Saturday Work Party

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

Looking for a way to get involved in restoration? Come out to our Second Saturday restoration work party!

We will meet at refuge HQ at 8:30 am to get checked in and head to our work site on Oleson unit around 9 am. Snacks and work gloves will be provided. Please wear sturdy shoes and pants and bring a water bottle.

Email any questions to Habitat Restoration Specialist Sarah Williams at: SWilliams@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

Creatures of the Night

October 29, 6:00PM-9:00PM

This is a fun event close to Halloween. For kids of all ages. There will be lots of activities including night walks, crafts and interpretive stations. Limited space available. Adult supervision required. No registration required. For more information e-mail Rachel Dunham at rachel_dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

Tracking Wildlife

October 23, 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@fws.gov.

Puddle Stompers: Fire on the Refuge

October 12, 1:00PM-2:30PM

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 morning 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 Environmental Education Specialist Seth.Winkelhake@fws.gov or call (503)625-5944.

Puddle Stompers:Eagles

October 18, 10:00AM-11:30AM

Registration is required.

Questions? Please contact the Friends Environmental Education Specialist Seth.Winkelhake@fws.gov or call (503)625-5944.

Owl Prowl

October 12, 6:30PM-8:00PM and October 25, 6:30PM-8:00PM

Whooooo goes there?

Join the refuge's owl enthusiast Seth Winkelhake and get to know this outstanding hunter. Owls remind us that nature is still very active after the sun goes down. During this night hike you'll learn about the different owls who call the Refuge home and their mysterious nocturnal lives. You'll explore their habitat and learn about their amazing adaptations for life at night.

Flashlights provided. Registration is required.

For more information e-mail [Rachel Dunham](mailto:Rachel.Dunham@fws.gov).

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:Rachel.Dunham).

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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