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November 2016

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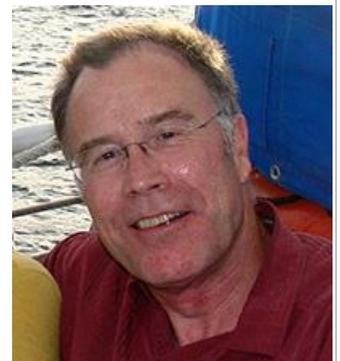
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From the President's Perch

By Tom Hartz, President of the Board

President's Perch – October 2016

The new slate of Friends Board Officers was approved at the Board Meeting on October 25. Keith Mays will become Past President, Don Nelson is the new President Elect, Willem Stoeller will stay on as Treasurer, as will Sharon Miller as Secretary. I will move from President Elect to President. The Board expressed its thanks to Keith for his leadership over the past year. I am personally grateful that he will stay on the Executive Committee, continuing to provide counsel and assistance. We remain grateful to Cheryl Hart for her many years of leadership for the Friends of the Refuge. It's humbling for me to witness all of the great accomplishments that the Friends, in collaboration with the Fish and Wildlife Service, continue to contribute to our community.



With amazing planning and coordination among many organizations, the first Prescribed Burn at the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge, went off without a hitch on September 29. Rain forecasted for the following week led to the burn taking place a few days early. With those rains and some warm days, the area burned has already recovered. You have to look closely to see any residual impact. Erin Holmes and Eva Kristofik again demonstrated their leadership skills across several contributing external partners. Through her communications, our Rachel Dunham helped assure that the Friends and the community

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This Month's Events

Second Saturday Work Party

November 12, 8:45AM-12:00PM

Puddle Stompers: Busy Beavers

November 9, 1:00PM-2:30PM

Owl Prowl

November 9 & November 23

6:30PM-8:00PM

Puddle Stompers: Ducks & Geese

November 15, 10:00AM-11:30AM

Waterfowl Watch

November 5, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Friends Board Meeting

November 22 6:30PM
November 22 7:00PM
business meeting

were well informed. There was not a single call to the Refuge during the burn to ask what was going on!

The Friends will be well represented at the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Cultural Awareness Workshop on October 26th and 27th, thanks to a generous donation from the Gray Family Foundation. The Foundation funded over 24 slots for Friends staff and members and other local partners for the event. We will be better positioned to present the history of our area to the public in a way that respects the Native American culture after attending the Workshop.

The kids' display at the Nature Center continues to be a big hit. Appropriate for the Halloween season, Creatures of the Night is the current theme. A group of volunteers has stepped up to develop ways to better present the mission of the Friends of the Refuge at the Visitors Center. Now that we have a "brand" that we can relate to our members and visitors, we apply that vision to the Visitors Center. Please pay attention to the places that you see the new logo in the Center and how it relates to what we do as members and volunteers to support our mission.

This "Perch" is becoming a Tree. I'll try to contain my enthusiasm for what we do in future President's Perch messages....on further thought...NO, I won't. We're doing great things. As I'm writing this, I realize that calling attention to what you do will be a fun part of my job.

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 Urban Program: Online Collaboration Gets a Makeover



Urban Refuges: A New View of These Little Pieces Heaven

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](#)

Think back to your first time visiting your favorite Portland-Vancouver area National Wildlife Refuge. How did you hear about it? What was your first sight, sound, or smell? How easy was it to find your way around? What experiences and stories brought you back? If your first time was before the land became a wildlife refuge - how did that impact your experience?

Got a memory in your head? Great!

Recently, Friends staff and the Urban Refuge Support Team spent time in the shoes of several different visitors, pondering these questions at a class called The Process of Interpretative Planning - sort of a fancy name for "creating great visitor experiences." The training had us look at "information networks" - that include websites, signs, exhibits, and programs - through the lens of how they meet the needs of visiting audiences. While some needs differ, one thing all audiences do is use a cost-to-benefit analysis to decide how to use their time:

$$\text{Probability of Involvement} = \text{Promise of Reward} / \text{Potential Effort}$$

In other words, visitors are looking for a lower cost (time commitment, effort, barriers, etc.) compared to benefits (fun, enrichment, cultural relevance, etc.). This calculation takes place quickly when they arrive, but it begins even sooner offsite with websites, social media, and word of mouth. For those of us who love these refuges, we've discovered a lot of benefit and are more forgiving of cost. But for new audiences, visiting can feel a bit intimidating, raising the perceived cost and discouraging first-time or repeat visitation.

To create positive visitor experiences, it's critical to understand our audiences. As Urban Refuges there are many audiences must consider, but maybe the best place to begin is to ask ourselves, "What image comes to mind when I hear the term urban audience?" For some, it evokes people of color with many young children, who may or may not speak English. While this is a segment of the population, and one that we explored during training, there are many others to consider. One of the best strategies we discovered is to find solutions that solve as many common needs across these audiences, what some refer to as universal design.

For example, simple things like clear wayfinding to bathrooms, water, and the beginning of a trail are a need for all and help people feel welcome. One group during training explored the refuge in a wheelchair and reported that lower counter-tops, exhibits, and fencing would improve that audience's experience - but it would also benefit young children. FWS and Friends staff have been working with Access Recreation, an organization that provides information to hikers with disabilities, to share information about Tualatin River and Steigerwald Lake refuges to their community. The same information about trail grades, distances, and overall quality may help others who are intimidated by the idea of "hiking" at the refuges.

We invite you to join us in our journey to create outstanding visitor experiences to a wide range of audiences. For starters, check out the [AAS web site](#), a great resource for learning more about the various people we serve and hope to serve. As always, we welcome your feedback and are happy to discuss this in more detail.

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.

Tom Hartz and his wife took their annual trip to Lake Tahoe the first week in October. This year they were greeted with an early snowfall for our annual walk around Spooner Lake. At 7200 feet, snow in early October is not too unusual, but it's always beautiful.



Holiday Open House



Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 3, for the annual Holiday Open House at Nature's Overlook retail store at the Refuge. Friend's members will receive a 20 % discount on all purchases on that day only. (The regular discount is 10 %.) If you're not yet a member of the Friends, you can join that day and be eligible for the discount. The store buyers have ordered a lot of new merchandise specifically for the holiday season. You will find new toys, games, books and logo wear, all perfect for gifts, treats for yourself, or donations to low-income children. We will be participating again this year in Sherwood 4 Kids Sake's toy drive, where you can purchase items to fulfill the wishes of individual children, and leave the gifts here to be picked up and delivered. See you on December 3, 10 am to 4 pm, for great shopping and cookies too!

Duck Stamps



Time is running out to purchase 2016 Federal Duck Stamps from Nature's Overlook. We will be returning any unsold stamps to the vendor just after the start of the new year. Duck Stamps are required for waterfowl hunters, but are also collected by many people as a great way to donate to conservation. Ninety eight cents of every dollar spent for Duck Stamps goes to purchase vital habitat for protection in the

National Wildlife Refuge system. According to the USFWS website, more than 300 Refuges were created or expanded using the proceeds from Duck Stamp sales. The stamps cost \$25, and this year's stamp features Trumpeter Swans. If you haven't purchased stamps in the past, this would be a great time to start your collection and add your contribution to habitat protection. Duck Stamps also make great gifts and "stocking stuffers."

Recommended Books

For all you Erratic hunters out there! An entire book about the greatest Lake Missoula Flood- the Gigaflood by Rick Thompson Also on the shelves and written by Rick- The Hunt for Iceberg Erratics. This guide book lists locations of Erratics in the region- listing the address and location of the erratic, a photo of it, GPS coordinates, and interesting facts about it. More than 25 are featured and included on maps- giving you new adventures to plan and places to go!

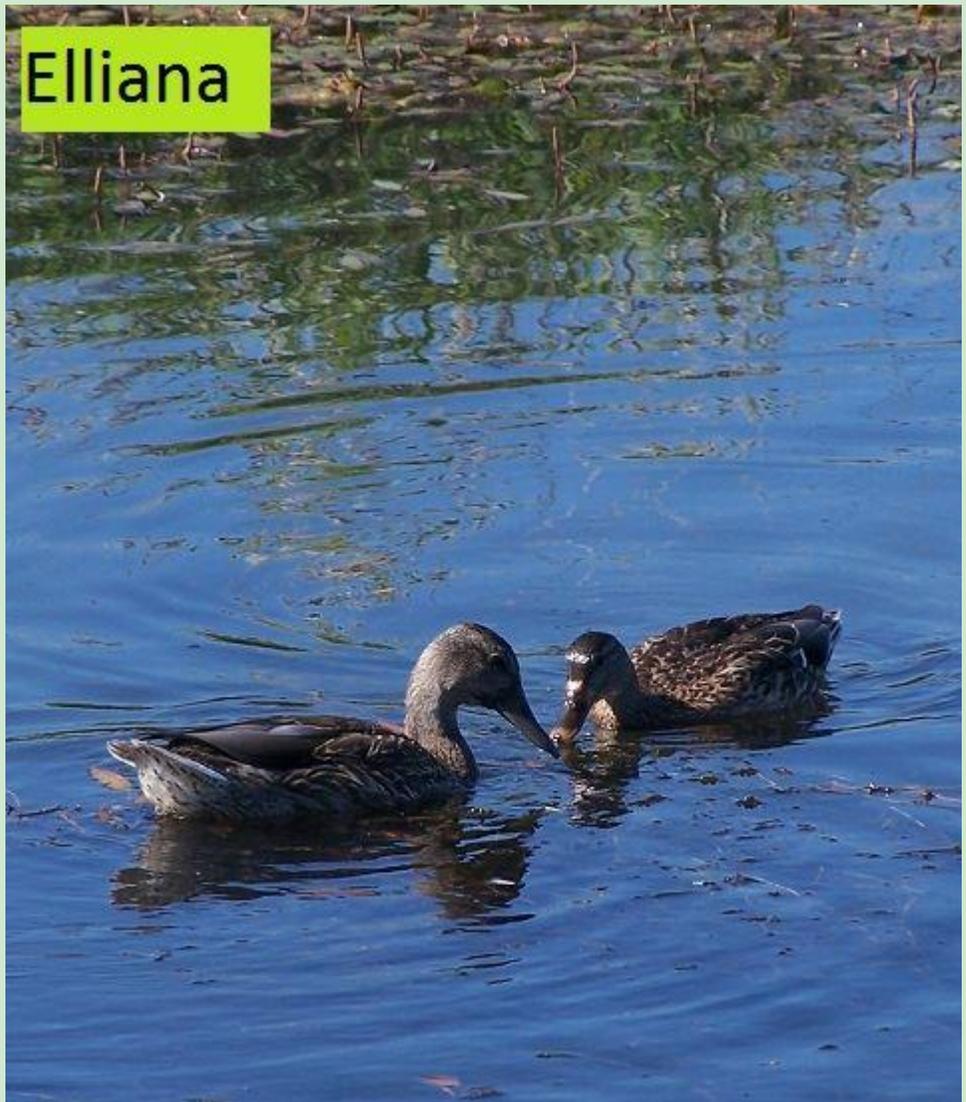
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Kids' Corner!

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

Elliana



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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

Caught on Camera by Seth Winkelhake

Here is a picture from our wildlife camera recently. This river otter can be seen using the stream under the first bridge on the year round trail. Many other animals use the waterway both at night and during the day. Next time you go for a walk, stop for a few minutes and see if anything appears, last time I walked by there was a great blue heron catching fish.



Enrichment Opportunities Open to Public:

Second Saturday Work Party

Second Saturday Restoration Work Party
November 12, 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 November party we will be removing tree tubes from a planting along Roy Rodgers Rd.

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

Puddle Stompers:Busy Beavers

November 9, 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:Ducks & Geese

November 15, 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

November 9, 6:30PM-8:00PM and November 23, 6:30PM-8:00PM

Who 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).

Waterfowl Watch

November 5, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Join us for the "how to's" of waterfowl watching with USFWS Biologist, Michelle McDowell. Build your skills with bird watching tools and tips, practice identifying waterfowl and then venture out on the Refuge to see them in the wild!

Please bring binoculars and a bird guide if you have them. Loaners will be available. This event is open to all skill levels. Come and celebrate the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial!

For more information e-mail [Rachel Dunham](mailto:Rachel.Dunham@refuge.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.friendsoftrnwr.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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