

AUGUST 2017

# MAKING TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NWR

JOYFULLY CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WONDER OF THE REFUGE



## PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Tom Hartz, President of the Board



I hope that you're enjoying the summer. Last year, the land in front of the Plaza Overlook was dry. This year, the FWS Staff made water management changes that allow more water to be retained in the area. The heavy rains and flooding last winter and spring swept fish, mostly carp, from the Tualatin onto the refuge. When the water level was drawn down, the fish were trapped in pretty shallow water –

easy pickings for birds of prey. This has drawn more raptors than we've seen in recent years. It's common this summer to see multiple osprey hunting right in front of the overlook. There are some dramatic encounters between the osprey and bald eagles, who share similar niches. Don Holland, one of our Volunteer Naturalists and Camp Staff member, captured a dramatic picture of an eagle flying upside down with talons open, during an aerial encounter with an osprey!

A litter of coyote pups has been frequenting the grassy area beyond the seasonal cross-trail. I've heard that there are as many as 6 pups in the litter. It's unusual to see them in the morning and early afternoon. I hope their parents haven't abandoned them.

The 2017 Summer Nature Camp is over. We had 27 youth campers for all-day sessions July 10-15. Thanks to the generosity of several donors, we were able to provide scholarships to kids who otherwise may not have been able to attend. The scholarship offering and the all-day format drew a broader demographic of campers. The majority of campers this year were first-time participants. The Wheeler Family, whose donation enabled Photo Day as part of Nature Camp several years ago, again contributed to the camp.

Berk Moss, a pioneer for our Volunteer Naturalist program, recruited and provided leadership training to 10 middle school and high school kids who have "aged out" of being campers, as Camp Assistants and Youth Team Leads. Many thanks to the team of adult staff and the youth assistants who made the camp possible. A blog was posted each day of camp on the [FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org/campblog](http://FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org/campblog) web page.

Check out the campers' favorite pictures on display in the Riparian Room in the Visitors Center. The quality of the pictures that the 8 to

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## AUGUST EVENTS

**Early Morning Bird Walk**

Aug. 5th, 8 - 10am

**Puddle Stompers**

Aug. 9th, 1 - 2:30pm

**2nd Saturday Work Party**

Aug. 12th, 8:45am - noon

**Puddle Stompers**

Aug. 15th, 10 - 11:30am

**Guided Nature Walk**

Aug. 19th, 9 - 10:30am

12 year old campers take is amazing.

We all should have our plans in place for the solar eclipse next month. It's impossible not to have heard that there will be tremendous numbers of visitors to the region and incredible traffic for several days before, during, and after the actual event. A quick trip to the grocery store could be an adventure in itself, and the supply of items on the shelves may be disappointing. Protect your eyes with special glasses available for that purpose. Also, if you plan to take pictures of the sun during the eclipse, protect the sensor in your camera with a lens filter specific for that purpose.

**Animals in the Sky**  
Aug.19th, 8:00pm

**Friends Board Meeting**  
Aug. 22nd, 6:30 - 8pm

**Guided Nature Walk**  
Aug. 26th, 9 - 10:30am

## SUPPORT THE FRIENDS

### BottleDrop Donations

Looking for an easy way to support the Friends of Tualatin River NWR and get rid of your returnable cans and bottles? Stop by the Refuge and pick up a blue BottleDrop bag.



Fill the blue BottleDrop bag with your returnable Oregon Deposit cans and bottles (soda, beer, water bottles).

Take the bag to any BottleDrop redemption center--don't wait in line--just scan the UPC code on the outside of the bag and drop the bag through the door. Or, bring the filled blue bag back to the Friends office and we will return it. Whichever is easier for you!



## SOCIAL MEDIA



### Fred Meyer Community 2nd Quarter Rewards

 About Fred Meyer Community Rewards The Kroger Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local communities.

They do this through a unique Community Rewards Program of Fred Meyer.

Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge currently has 21 households who shopped at Fred Meyer in April through June, 2017 and have contributed to our **\$94.08** donation. It's simple to sign up for the program. Visit the [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#) page to learn how to link your rewards card and start earning cash for the Friends.

## NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

### Wear in the World



Amy Stark having fun and showing her Friends of Tualatin NWR logowear love with Valerie Matzen and Brandy Krause.

## PROGRAMS

### Interpretation and Environmental Education

## SUPPORT THE FRIENDS



 [About Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#)



## NWRA Alerts

[Sign up to receive alerts](#) from the National Wildlife Refuge Association on legislation that impacts the National Wildlife Refuge System.

★ Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge ★  
**Animals in the Sky**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>  
Starting at 8 PM\*

Explore the Refuge at night, look  
for constellations, and hear stories  
about animals in the sky.  
Free and family friendly.

 

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

\* Registration required.  
Go to [www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org) for more  
information. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## PHOTO SOCIETY

### Photo Society Eclipse Meetup in Eastern Oregon

Several openings remain for a meetup in eastern Oregon to view the August 21 solar Eclipse from a private property near Prairie City. Please contact [photosociety@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:photosociety@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org) before August 5 if you are interested. There will be an organizational meeting on Aug 9th.

A few things you will need to know if camping in a field on private property. No open fires, only gas stoves. Bring all your drinking water (there is wash water on site but not purified. There are cows upstream...). We arrive on Saturday afternoon around 4 pm, then photograph the milky way on Saturday night. Sunday will be spent testing for photography of the sun (for periods before/after the totality phase). Sunday night is more Milky way photography. Monday morning is pack up and solar eclipse, then we head home. With luck you can make it back into Portland before the crowds at the all-day Madras event return to Portland.

## September Meeting

The September meeting will be Friday night at 7:00pm in the Riparian Room (September 8). This isn't the usual first Thursday. Our speaker will be Denise Ippolito, an award winning wildlife photographer. ([deniseippilto.com](http://deniseippilto.com)).

Denise will be speaking on topics including bird photography, flower photography and perhaps a little bit about photographing the Palouse.



Denise Ippolito is a full time professional photographer, international workshop leader, and creative artist living in New Jersey. Her images have been published in magazines and text books, sold as greeting cards, calendars and most recently featured in a Sierra Club

Documentary. Six of her images hung in the distinguished Birds of the World Exhibit featured at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Denise travels extensively presenting slide shows, lectures and seminars and teaching photography and Photoshop. Her workshops feature a variety of subjects including: avian, flower, landscape and creative photography.





## **FEEDBACK WELCOME**

Please help us make this newsletter something you look forward to receiving by sharing ideas and suggestions to improve the content. This is a work in progress, and we look forward to hearing from you! [Click here](#) to email us.

## **CONTACT US**

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