

FEBRUARY 2017

MAKING TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NWR

JOYFULLY CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WONDER OF THE REFUGE



JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Tom Hartz, President of the Board



Welcome to 2017!

It has been a wet, cold, and windy January. That makes for amazing displays at the refuge. Migrating waterfowl are landing and sliding on the ice. Thousands of birds pass through daily. Many others spend their winter at the Refuge. Snow and ice make the trees, bushes and grasses look like a Thomas Kinkade holiday painting. Several trees, some quite large, were felled by the ice, snow, and wind over the past couple of weeks. Our resident beavers stripped the bark very quickly. Seth Winkelhake told me that visitors had a hard time staying on trails that were buried in the snow. Thanks for trying! The two ponds before the Oak Savannah merged across the trail for a few days as the snow melted and the rain continued. There are lots of puddles to stomp. The school closures that threaten to extend the school year into July will not be remembered by the kids come June. Suggestion: Save your pictures of the sledding, snowmen and snow scenes. Pull them out in June to remind your kids of why they're still in class in late June.

Rachel Dunham's summary for the Board of visitation and sales at Natures Overlook was very informative. Compared to December 2015, we had 24% fewer visitors in 2016; however, we had an increase of 14% in sales of merchandise. Well done, Store Crew! The merchandise is of high quality and is well displayed, the new Friends logo looks great, and the Entrance Display is, as usual, outstanding. Thanks to Tobyn and John for keeping the display fresh, fun, and informative. Thanks to the Store Volunteers for being the smiling, welcoming faces to our guests coming in from the cold.

Winter is a time of the year for planning for several of the Friends volunteer committees. The Environmental Education Committee is planning the curriculum for the 2017 Volunteer Naturalist Training, which begins on February 23rd. Check with Seth Winkelhake if you're interested in becoming a Volunteer Naturalist. The Summer Nature Camp Committee is planning for the 2017 camp, the week of July 10. This year, the camp will be a full-day camp, rather than just mornings. The Committee hopes that this will be attractive to working families who would prefer full-day activities for their children. Applications and more information about the camp will be on the Friends website shortly (friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/). Planning for the Bird Festival, scheduled for May 20, is underway. The Urban team is in discussion with staff and volunteers from the Tualatin River NWR and Ridgefield

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NWR to prioritize opportunities to invest funds from the Fish and Wildlife Service allocated to provide transportation in support of community outreach efforts.

We hope that you all are enjoying the season. Please consider a visit to our Refuge during the winter months. Each season has its charm. Winter can be the most dramatic. Dress for the weather!

President's Volunteer Service Award

The President's Volunteer Service Awards for 2016 will be awarded at the February Friends' Board Meeting. Friend's members who volunteer over 100 hours during the calendar year are recognized annually by the Board of Directors. Please plan on joining us to celebrate their great contribution.

February 28, 2017

Social with refreshments begins at 6:30 PM

Service Pins presented 7 PM -- followed by the Board Meeting

Bronze Level recipients(100-249 Hours)

Andrew Tappy, Barbara Allen, Barbara Birney, Bob Emmerich, Bob Try, Bobbie Allaire, Darlene Dumke, David Collin, Don Nelson, Drew Bolger, Joan Try, John Gendron, Judy Silverforb, Keith Mays, Kristie Al-Rashidi, Marty Clancy, Mary French, Mike Burnett, Pam Farris, Pat Allaire, Pattie Beaven, Paula McCall, Richard Bennett, Ruthann Panck, Stan Carovano, and Wendy Cattanach

Silver Level recipients (250-499 Hours)

Bob Fuquay, Bonnie Anderson, Christine Crocker, Dawn Carovano, Doug Niwa, Larry Harrington, Linda Kilgore, Mike Skinner, Tobyn Bower, Tom Hartz, Virginia Maffitt, and Willem Stoeller

Gold Level recipients (500+ Hours)

Cheryl Hart, Georgianna Burnett, and Sharon Miller

REFUGE UPDATE

Youth Waterfowl Hunt

For the second consecutive year, the Refuge provided multiple opportunities for youth to participate in waterfowl hunting on a specially designated area of the Riverboat Unit. Hunts occurred every other weekend from mid-October through the end of January. Participants were selected prior to the start of the season through a special lottery drawing. While weather and flood events have interfered on occasion during both years, the program has garnered a great deal of interest. In fact, lottery applications have exceeded available opportunities both years.

Although hunting opportunities are not provided on every National Wildlife Refuge, hunting is one of the "Big Six" wildlife dependent recreational opportunities supported by the National Wildlife Refuge System. For many youth, hunting represents their introduction to the natural world and can inspire a life-long commitment to conservation; as it did for me.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Owl Prowl

Feb. 1, 6:30 - 8pm

Photo Society Monthly Meeting

Feb 2, 7:00pm

Puddle Stompers

Feb 8, 1 - 2:30pm

Restoration Work Party

Feb. 11, 8:45am - 12pm

Puddle Stompers

Feb 14, 10 - 11:30am

Owl Prowl

Feb. 15, 6:30 - 8pm

Naturalist Training Session 1 of 4

Feb. 23, 9am - 3:30

Friends Board Meeting

Feb 28, 6:30 - 8:30pm

As importantly as providing youth opportunities to connect to nature, hunting has ensured the future for many species of wildlife and their habitat. By paying the Federal excise tax on hunting equipment, hunters are contributing hundreds of millions of dollars for conservation programs that benefit many wildlife species, both hunted and non-hunted.

Each year, nearly \$200 million in hunters' federal excise taxes are distributed to State agencies to support wildlife research and management programs, the purchase of lands open to hunters and non-hunters, and hunter education and safety classes. Proceeds from the Federal Duck Stamp, a required purchase for migratory waterfowl hunters that began in 1934, have generated some \$800 million dollars used to purchase more than six million acres of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Given the strong tradition hunters have supporting conservation, the Refuge is proud to be providing this opportunity and looks forward to many more years of inspiring future conservationists with the youth waterfowl hunt program.

Curt Mykut
USFWS Wildlife Biologist

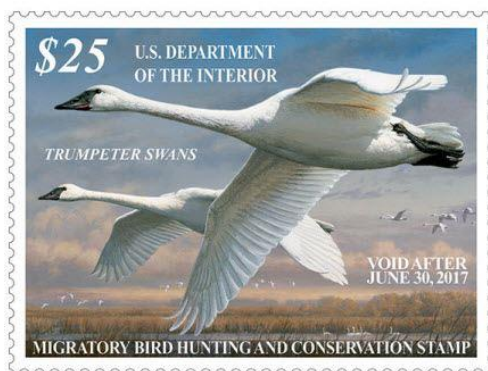


SOCIAL MEDIA



NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

Duck Stamps



This is the last chance to purchase 2016 Federal Duck Stamps at Nature's Overlook. The remaining inventory will be returned to the vendor shortly. Even if you aren't a duck hunter or haven't collected Duck Stamps in the past, this is a great opportunity to contribute to the acquisition and restoration of additional wetland habitat. Over 98% of the cost of each Stamp goes directly to that cause. As other funding becomes even scarcer, Duck Stamps are one way to assure that habitat is protected.

Duck Stamps cost \$25. If you aren't able to get to Nature's Overlook in the next week or so, we will gladly help you make a credit card purchase over the phone and mail you the Stamp. Just call the store at 503-625-5945.

Book Review

Reviewed by Steve Runnels

Sibley Birds West: Field Guide to Birds of Western North America

by David Sibley (Author) 504 pages

Now completely revised and in a portable format you can carry into the field. The guide features 715 bird species and more than 5046 illustrations.

Each entry includes current information on frequency, nesting, behavior, food, voice description and key identification features. Also, included in this bird guide are more than 652 updated maps.

Wear in the World

Friends' Board Member Cheryl Hart sports our new logo pin on her Crafty Friends wool cap while enjoying the sites of Antarctic.



HELP THE
FRIENDS WHILE
YOU SHOP



PROGRAMS

Interpretation

Come check out our new Wildlife Center display on cranes and herons! Learn about their cultural and ecological significance and their connection to the Refuge. Even learn how to fold a paper crane! Thank you to our Interpretive Volunteers, Tobyn and John, for creating such an incredible display.



Environmental Education

Volunteer Naturalist Training for 2017 is just around the corner. The first training is Thursday, February 23. Volunteers in the education program help connect hundreds of visitors with the Refuge each year through school field trips and education programs. During training learn about Refuge history, local wildlife, environmental education methods, group management, and more! Contact Seth Winkelhake for more information and an application:

Seth_Winkelhake@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

or 503-625-5944

Volunteer Naturalist Training

at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

Inspire the next generation of conservationists



Volunteers in the education program help connect hundreds of visitors with the Refuge each year through school field trips and education programs. During training learn about Refuge history, local wildlife, environmental education methods, group management, and more!

Volunteer with the environmental education program and make a difference in your community for generations to come.

When: Thursdays - February 23rd, March 2nd, 9th, and 16th

Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm

Where: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
19255 SW Pacific Highway,
Sherwood, OR, 97140

¿Hablas español?

Queremos guías bilingüe



Contact for more information, and application:

Seth_Winkelhake@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

or call 503-625-5944



Caught on Camera

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service featured an article on their blog with photos from our trail camera here at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

<https://medium.com/@USFWS/wildlife-on-hidden-camera-534a209ef097#.4zs7vo3hr>

“I love the surprise. Sometimes I will bring in the camera with 2,000 photos on it and be scanning through 100's of photos of deer rumps standing in front of the camera and then all of a sudden a bobcat face pops up in the frame. Getting to share those candid moments of natural behavior of animals who are not so easily seen by the public is the best part.” — Seth Winkelhake, Friends of Tualatin River NWR



Restoration

Looking to get involved on the refuge? Come out to our February **Second Saturday Work Party on Feb. 11th!** We meet at refuge HQ at 8:45am, travel to our work site at 9 and are done working by 12pm. This month we will be removing invasive English Holly and Ivy, two species that thrive in our temperate but wet climate and can wreak havoc on habitats. Please wear sturdy shoes and pants and be ready to get dirty. Thank you for your continued support of the Friends' role in restoration! Please email Habitat Restoration Specialist Sarah Williams at SWilliams@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org if you have any questions.

Tualatin River Bird Festival--Save The Date!



Kid's Summer Nature Camp

Date: July 10-14, 2017

Time: 8:30 - 4:30

Cost: \$175

Click the image to visit the web page for more details.



Nature Camp
Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

WHO: Youth entering grades 3 – 6 in the Fall of 2017.
DATE: July 10 – 14, 2017
TIME: 8:30am – 4:30pm daily
COST: \$175 (includes camp hat, snacks, and photos taken by campers)
LOCATION: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Sherwood OR

Get more details and registration information at our website:
<http://friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/camp>



KID'S CORNER

Hey Kids! Bring your parents to the refuge and tell us what you saw. Take a photo, draw a picture, write a short story, or pen a poem. Your creation could be published here in the newsletter, with your parents' permission of course.



URBAN PROGRAM

Voices from the Urban Refuge Support Team

Follow some of our highlights and let us know if you would like to be more involved.

Mesha Wood

Club Aves

The winter storm has had many of us thinking about warmer weather - which inspired me to get together with our partners from Club Aves, a youth birding group in NE Portland, to discuss spring and summer programming. I, along with other USFWS staff, look forward to helping lead neighborhood walks, focused on connecting youth from the Cully neighborhood with the outdoors. The Service has provided transportation funding to the group...helping make visits to nature places beyond their neighborhood more attainable. If you have ever wanted to join an energetic group of youth and see the world of birding through their lenses, contact me at mesha_wood@fws.gov to get involved.

Pat Stark

Youth Mentoring Collaborative Job Fair ([check out the video](#))

Dozens of young people in Portland came to Matt Dishman Community Center on December 30th to meet with local environmental organizations and learn about job opportunities in the coming year. Through the Urban Refuge Program, the USFWS supported the event with funds and planning support. Jenny worked closely with the Youth Mentoring Collaborative (YMC) to organize the event. YMC is a coalition of organizations working together to advance professional opportunities in the environmental field, particularly for youth of color. Pat attended the event, co-hosting a table with [Rose Community Development](#), to recruit youth for the upcoming Daycation Youth Engagement Program. The Daycation program will invite small teams of young people (ages 14-19) to learn and engage in friendly competition while creating adventures for the new [Daycation Mobile App](#), which the USFWS is developing in cooperation with partners of the Intertwine Alliance.

Jenny de la Hoz

DEI and Intertwine

DEI stands for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The [Intertwine Alliance](#) is a coalition of over 160+ public, private and nonprofit organizations working to integrate nature more deeply into the Portland-Vancouver region. With financial and staff assistance from the Urban Refuge Support Team, Intertwine is actively working to create an environmental movement that is inclusive and representative of all. Intertwine is expanding and refining their tested "cohort model" of engagement to offer programming to 40 local organizations to create an ongoing learning community focused on DEI. Beginning in late February and early March, we are convening four cohorts from these organizations to learn to address different aspects of DEI and environmental work. Curious and want to learn more? Drop me a note jenny_delahoz@fws.gov.

Kim Strassburg

Positive Youth Engagement and the Outdoors

Our whole team has been working closely with a new partner, [I'M Hooked](#), whose mission is to use fishing as a platform to reach urban youth, giving them an alternative to the many negative influences they may encounter. Together, we are planning to provide local youth opportunities to learn new skills, to make a difference in their community, to interact with other youth from diverse cultural backgrounds, and to gain experiences in leadership and shared decision making. Through our combined efforts, we aim to instill an appreciation for nature, conservation, restoration and education by way of water, rod, and reel. Look for I'M Hooked at our May 20th Tualatin River Bird Festival, helping to teach kids casting skills. And we will support I'M Hooked's signature Family Fishing Weekend at Henry Hagg Lake June 3rd & 4th. This event has serving up to 1,500 participants annually for 28 years and continues to deepen its impact. Won't you join us at both events to help share your love of nature with kids and families? Drop me a line at kim_strassburg@fws.gov.

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

Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
19255 SW Pacific Highway
Sherwood, OR 97140
503-625-5944 x227
www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org