

JUNE 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



Let me use this platform to thank the many folks who made the 2017 Bird Festival such a wonderful event. The Festival Committee, the Fish and Wildlife Service staff, the Friends staff, Friends volunteers, our partner organizations and their volunteers, and the event sponsors who all contributed to the obvious success of the day. With the incredible weather we enjoyed, the turnout was great. Visitors stuck around longer this year, taking advantage of the many activities on

the refuge. I spent a few hours on a bus, welcoming visitors as they arrived and thanking them for coming as they rode to the parking lot. There were a lot of first-time visitors. They all promised to come back. I'm confident that they will. The Bird Festival was truly a labor of love and a job well done by all.

We're finally getting some great spring weather. School field trips are in full swing, keeping the Volunteer Naturalists busy. Photographers are getting great pictures on the refuge. With the Seasonal Trails open, folks are able to get a much longer walk and see birds tending to their young. With the water level higher this year, there's a lot of bird activity right at the Visitors Center Overlook. The flooding earlier this year swept fish, mostly carp, onto the refuge. When the water receded back into the Tualatin River, the fish were trapped. Osprey and eagles are feasting on these fish, giving some amazing displays of their hunting skills.

It didn't take too many days of sun and warmth for the plants and flowers to respond. The displays around the buildings and the bio-swale in the center of the parking lot are spectacular. Many thanks to the volunteers who tend to these areas. It's a great welcome to visitors as they arrive to see such beauty right in the parking lot.

As you plan your activities for the summer, please keep visits to the refuge on your list. If you have guests coming to visit, be sure to bring them by. I look forward to seeing you on the trails.

KIDS SUMMER NATURE CAMP

Looking for a quality summer camp for your kids? We still have some spaces available in our 2017 Nature Camp. Get more [details and register](#)

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your camper online at our website or download the [printable registration form](#) and mail it to us with your payment.

We heard you! Based on feedback, the daily camp sessions will be a full day this year.

Camp Date/Time: July 10-14, 8:30-4:30 daily

Camper Ages: For youth entering 3rd through 6th grades in Fall 2017.



SUMMER 2017

Nature Camp

Friends of Tualatin River

Explore Your Local Wildlife Refuge This Summer!

WHO: Youth entering 3rd–6th grade the Fall of 2017

WHEN: July 10 – 14, 2017
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM daily

Eagles and Frogs and Deer Oh My!

Kids! Spend a week at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge connecting with nature and exploring the outdoors with all five senses. The program features high quality environmental education and arts activities, with emphasis on photography and nature journaling. Families can follow the daily blog to see what's happening. Only 30 spots available.

JUNE EVENTS

2nd Saturday Work Party

June 10, 8:45am - 12pm

Puddle Stompers

June 14, 1pm - 2:30pm

Bio-swale Work Party

June 16, 9am - 11am

Puddle Stompers

June 20, 10am - 11:30am

Friends Board Meeting

June 27 6:30pm

REFUGE UPDATE

Open House: Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge

The draft for the Environmental Assessment for the restoration of Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge was released earlier this month. The Fish and Wildlife Service hosted an open house in Gaston to provide information on the various alternatives and hear public comments. We had a great turnout and Curt Mykut, Refuge Biologist, gave a wonderful presentation. The comment period closes on June 3rd. For more information and to see the EA please visit the website: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Wapato_lake.



SOCIAL MEDIA

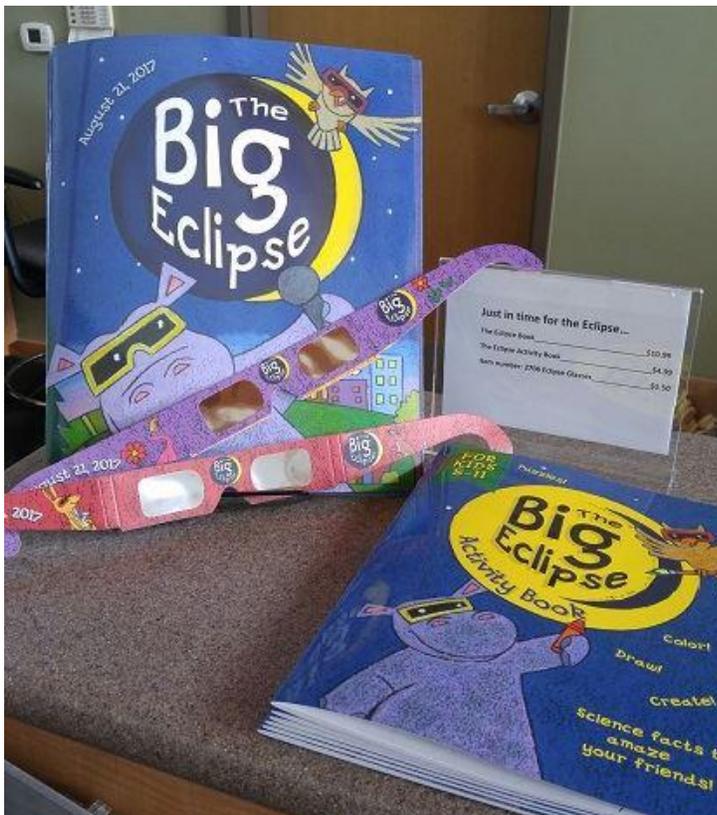


NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

New Books in the Store

Just in time for the eclipse!

The Big Eclipse Book and the Big Eclipse Activity Book, both written by local author Nancy Coffelt. We also have NASA approved eclipse glasses.



HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE YOU SHOP



NWRA Alerts

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

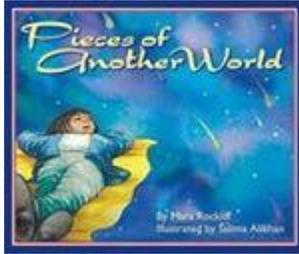
Book Reviews

Many thanks to our longtime book buyer, Kristie Al-Rashidi, for choosing such marvelous books for our store! Kristie has used her experience as an educator to find excellent reading and learning materials for children and adults. She is stepping down as volunteer book buyer because family life is busy! New book buyer, Jennifer Bennett, will try to keep up the standards! Below are three wonderful new books for children ordered by Kristie.

Pieces of Another World

By Mara Rockliff

\$8.95

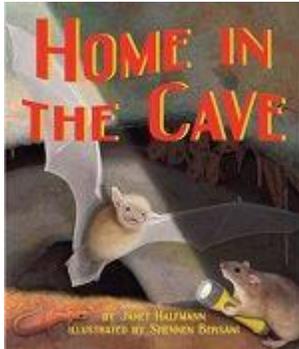


A terrific story about a nighttime adventure of a young girl and her father as they search for shooting stars. Great information about animals in the night. Fun tips at the back of the book for planning a meteor watching party – perfect for the meteor showers of late summer. Beautiful illustrations.

Home in the Cave

By Janet Hoffmann

\$9.95

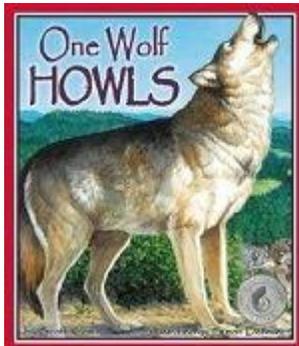


A fun book about baby bats, growing and learning to explore the cave. A superb lesson in specially adapted cave creatures, how important bats are, and how they fit in to the big scheme of life in the cave. Charming artwork. One of the new bat stuffed animals from the Friends store might make a perfect companion to this book!

One Wolf Howls

By Scott Cohn

\$9.95



This book has everything – rhyming, counting, gorgeous pictures, and wolves! It explores the lives of wolves through the seasons while counting month by month. Just beautiful!

Wear in the World

This hat traveled a long way! Eva Kristofik's mom, Helen, wore her Friends new logo cap while roaming Slovakia's capital, Bratislava.



Getting Gelato and reminiscing at the National Theater of Arts.

PROGRAMS

Interpretation and Environmental Education

Bird Festival 2017

What an incredible day! With over 1,100 visitors and beautiful weather, this year's Bird Festival was one to remember. A huge thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the event and the Friends members who support the Refuge. Without you, the event wouldn't have happened!



Restoration

The restoration program had a record 30 people show up for our second Saturday work party in May. Members of the Rotary Club and Seishinkan Karate, both from Tigard, joined in to help remove blackberry along the trail and do some cleanup prep work for Bird Festival. Even with the constant rain everyone was in high spirits. Thank you for volunteering and helping to make great habitat for wildlife!



URBAN PROGRAM

¡Festival de aves!

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Bird Festival was a sunny success on May 20th, with over 1,200 visitors. While a warm, dry day certainly helps with turnout, we can also attribute a collaborative effort between the Urban Refuge Support Team, Friends of Tualatin River Refuge, and Refuge Staff to reach out to Spanish-speaking communities of the Portland Metro Area. The event drew more people and more cultures than ever before.

With a rapidly growing Latino population in Oregon, the Refuge has been developing new outreach strategies over the last few years, particularly to its premier annual event. Outreach for the 2017 Bird Festival represents the most comprehensive effort to date, focusing on marketing and outreach, as well as welcoming elements at the Festival.



Marketing and outreach included:

- Announcements on Spanish-language television and radio outlets featuring a Latino family that has previously visited the Festival
- A 22-minute radio interview on Bustos Media that included the same family
- A 2-minute feature interview with Jenny (URST) and Seth (Friends) that aired on Univision's "En Comunidad" morning show
- Spanish-language web content and printed materials
- Coordination with a nearby church and library that serve a large, Spanish-speaking community

On-site welcoming elements included:

- A shuttle bus running between the Refuge, church, and library throughout the day
- Spanish speaking volunteers at the welcome table and on all wagon rides
- Interpreters at various activity stations
- Spanish-language education materials
- Free pan dulce offered to all Festival visitors (a big, yummy success!)

If you're interested in learning more about this effort, we encourage you to download the [Bird Festival Outreach & Welcoming](#) summary, which contains video links and audio files to television and radio spots. Also, feel free to reach out to Kim at kim_strassburg@fws.gov.

A partnership to reach beyond the Blue Goose



When the Oregon Zoo opened its new Education Center this last March, it was just the beginning of a developing partnership between the USFWS and the Zoo. With the opportunity to reach thousands of visitors, the zoo affords the USFWS to go beyond the Blue Goose and connect with people who might not understand how our work benefits them daily. On April 29th, the USFWS and its partners, the Ridgefield NWR Friends and Tualatin River NWR Friends, brought our story to the Zoo to celebrate Arbor Day.

With a focus on the importance of native Oregon White Oak Trees, the event showcased not only the many benefits of oaks, but what we do as the Service to protect oak habitats, to ensure that they not only last, but

thrive. USFWS Fire team's engaging "dress like a fire fighter" booth let young minds explore the idea of one day working in fire management, while helping people to understand how fire is used for restoration work. Friends of Tualatin River NWR staff and volunteers share stories of the prescribed burn held last fall at TRNWR. Ridgefield NWR helped engage youth and families to share how many animals, including humans depend on oak trees and oak habitats. And Friends of Ridgefield shared the connections between native people's tending of oaks and how the protection of oak habitats is a priority for our local refuges. Other local partners also joined us at the event, showing that we can all find common ground – even when it comes to something often overlooked, like an oak tree.

This event is just the first of many where through this partnership we can extend into the community and serve more people. Curious? Want to learn more? Contact us.

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.

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