

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 Mark Newell, President of the Board

Luxury toilet paper is destroying Canadian forests, according to the Guardian: "Americans are particularly to blame for this crisis. They make up just over 4% of the world's population, yet account for more than 20% of global tissue consumption. The average four-person household in the US uses over 100lb of toilet paper a year." *The Guardian*: [America's love of luxury toilet paper is destroying Canadian forests](#).

Previous reports into the environmental impact of toilet paper have found American desire for super-soft multi-ply toilet paper to be "[worse than Hummers](#)" for the environment.

There's something I didn't know.

And here's something I just learned, the Friends Group right here on the Refuge is in the process of securing funding for the Chicken Creek restoration project in excess of \$500, 000.

That's a big deal.

We're part of a project that includes the Fish and Wildlife Service, Clean Water Services, and a whole host of other partners and contractors that will make up a major restoration project on the refuge. I have no idea how much toilet paper credit this project will make up for but if you want to make a difference in the world, improve the environment, and be able to tell your grand-kids, children, parents, or future children that you had a hand in making the world a better place, well, here's your chance.



Hoodoo and her person Mark

The Friends Group at the Refuge does all kinds of crazy neat stuff, from Environmental Education given to busloads of kids, Interpretation Programs on the trails to young families, to great big restoration projects like restoring Chicken Creek to its original channel. The Friends Group plays important roles all over the Refuge.

And here's how you could get involved; we're looking at increasing our membership. Your membership will get you a 10% discount in the Nature Store located in the beautiful Visitors Center. You'll also get a sticker to proudly place on your car. But beyond those great perks you'll get to pat yourself on the back for being a part of something bigger than yourself. We won't even ask you to get your hands dirty, well, we might ask but you don't have to. All the money we raise by selling memberships goes right back into the refuge. Your contribution could just be a membership. But...if you want to get your hands dirty, we have a project for you.

FYI: Here's the cost of memberships if you want to support the Refuge.

Student: \$15.00/Individual: \$25.00/Family: \$45.00/

To join go to: <https://fotr.wildapricot.org/Join/>

JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Puddle Stompers-Baby Bird](#)

April 10, 2019 1:00 PM

[Nature Ambassadors at Sherwood Public Library](#)

April 10, 2019 3:30 PM

[Second Saturday Restoration Work Party \(session 4 of 11\)](#)

April 13, 2019 9:00 AM

[Puddle Stompers-Baby Birds](#)

April 16, 2019 10:00 AM

[Friends Board Meeting \(session 2 of 2\)](#)

April 23, 2019 6:30 PM

SOCIAL MEDIA



The President's Volunteer Service Award

An initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

The Friends of the Refuge award service pins every year to tour members for volunteer hours served during the prior year. The pins are currently on back order, and as soon as they are shipped we will host a special reception before our next monthly Board meeting. We hope to have the pins by the April meeting. An email notification will go out to let you know.

Bronze Pin (100-249 hours)

Sara Abel, James Alexander, Barbara Allen, Barbara Birney, Mike Burnett, Wendy Cattanach, Alan Christensen, Marty Clancy, Christine Crocker, Darlene Dumke, David Dunn, Pam Farris, Larry Harrington, Carly Hishmann, Don Holland, Linda Kilgore, Ginny Maffitt, Paula McCall, Sharon Miller, Scott Owen, Ruthann Panck, Rodney Robertson, Michelle Scholz, John Schweitzer, Judy Silverforb, Ed Squiers, and Mary Taylor

Silver Pin (250-499 hours)

Alan Fitzpatrick, Bob Fuquay, Frank Nusser, Mike Skinner and Willem Stoeller

Gold Pin (500+ hours)

George Burnett, Dawn Carovano, Cheryl Hart and Tom Hartz

Thank you to all of our volunteers. Your ongoing support of the Friends and the Refuge is a huge part of what makes Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge so special.

HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE
YOU SHOP



Save the Date for our Annual Native Plant Sale

April 26th—Friends Members Pre Sale—4pm-5:30pm



Open to the Public Sale
April 26th—5:30pm-6:30pm

April 27th—9am-3pm





This morning, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on the ACCESS Act, H.R. 1326, which includes the Resources Protection Act (RPA). The RPA would authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to retain recoveries from responsible parties to restore or replace damages they cause to wildlife refuges.

At this hearing, serious misrepresentations were made about this bill, framing it as an illegal seizure of property by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Right now, if someone writes graffiti on a wildlife refuge sign, or dumps their old tires into a river within a wildlife refuge, or even cuts trees and buries oil and gas pipelines on a refuge, guess who pays to clean it up? The American taxpayer.

The RPA would change that, and channel any fees or restitution received from the person who caused the damage back to the refuge that was damaged. The RPA is **NOT** a money grab or an authorization for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to grab the property of refuge visitors.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Protection Act would provide the Service the ability to collect compensation from parties that injure or destroy resources on properties owned by the Service, including the National Wildlife Refuge System.

It would be the same authority that is currently granted to the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Service would use those funds to directly restore any injured or damaged Service resource without the need for further Congressional appropriation. Thus, the burden to restore injured or damaged resources would fall on the responsible party, not the American taxpayer.

Please urge your Members of Congress to support and pass the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Protection Act!

We are looking for people who are interested in writing for the Friends Newsletter; have a desire to right about something you are interested in, a creative writing itch, or skills as an editor? Contact Bonnie at: Info@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org

Northwest Family DAYCATION



Family fun where nature meets the city

What it is

Daycation is a completely free mobile app for families with younger children that takes all the planning and guesswork out of exploring nature in the Portland Metro Area. A team of parents and nature enthusiasts has curated fun adventures all over town, that connect natural areas to other community amenities, all while considering the unique needs of young explorers and their caregivers.

Who created it

Daycation is a cooperative project of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and The Intertwine Alliance.

How to get it

The app is available for Apple and Android phones. Search "Daycation" in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Connect with Nature
WHERE YOU ARE
& ON YOUR SCHEDULE

Parent Approved:
ITINERARIES
POINTS OF INTEREST
& EVENTS

Family adventures
WHERE NATURE MEETS THE CITY.

NO GUESSING.
NO RESEARCH.
*Just tap
and go!*

NWFAMILYDAYCATION.COM



Features

- Parent-curated adventures
- GPS enabled map
- Points of Interest
- New Daycations every Thursday
- Family-friendly event listing
- Optional personal profile to track your adventures

What this means for National Wildlife Refuges

As one of the co-developers of Daycation, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is featured throughout the app. Our three publicly accessible Urban National Wildlife Refuges — Tualatin River, Ridgefield, and Steigerwald Lake — all have (or will have) Daycations created for them by USFWS staff with support from the refuges' Friends and Stewards.

In addition, an extensive list of Points of Interest for each refuge is built into the app. This means that even if you're not on a Daycation, the app functions equally well as a GPS-enabled map of the refuge. You can view trails, bathrooms, interpretive stops, benches and more, all while following your little blue dot in real time.

Tualatin River NWR Daycations

Tualatin River Refuge: An Animal Tracks Mystery Adventure

This Daycation invites young nature sleuths and their caregivers to explore the animal tracks embedded in concrete throughout the Refuge. Along the way, there are questions posed, with answers that can be found on interpretive panels:

1. What animal poops on the trail to mark its territory? A: Coyote
The answer can be found on the Education Shelter panel at the tracking station sandbox.
2. How many different insects live in Oregon white oak trees? A: Over 200 species
The answer can be found on the interpretive panel in the oak woodlands along the River Trail.
3. What does the yellow warbler sound like? A: Sweet-sweet-sweet, I'm so sweet
The answer can be found on the Layers of Life interpretive panel at the River Overlook.

Wild Wonders of Sherwood

This Daycation demonstrates how exploring nature doesn't have to be a grand adventure where you leave all of the city amenities behind. It invites families, particularly those with little ones with little legs, to explore the Refuge as far as the River Overlook along the River Trail.

From there, we connect families with some family-friendly attractions in Sherwood. Stops include:

- Stella Olsen Memorial Park for some good ol' fashioned playground play time.
- A walk along the Cedar Creek boardwalk to Old Town.
- A treat stop at Hungry Hero Desert Co.

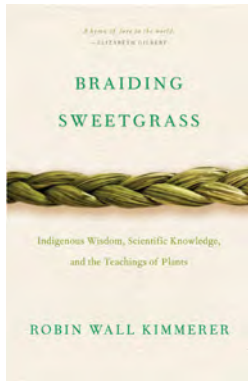


NWFAMILYDAYCATION.COM

NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

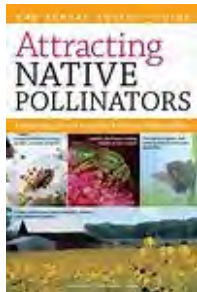
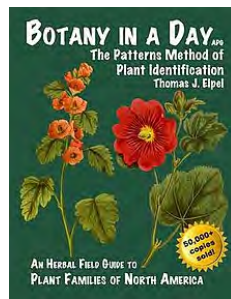
Dear book shoppers -- thanks again for supporting the Refuge through purchases at the book shop at Nature's Overlook! We are fully restocked with items from Dover -- coloring books and little sticker books and mazes and such for all ages. There are even some bookmarks, pretty seals for envelopes, and some blank notebooks for your purse or jacket pocket for jotting things down.

Now, to celebrate the upcoming ***Native Plant Sale***, let me tell you about some wonderful books to consider...



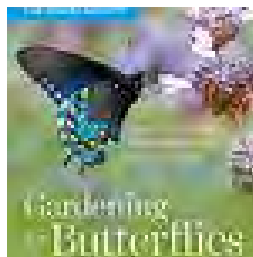
"Braiding Sweetgrass" is a marvelous book by author Robin Wall Kimmerer, who is a botany professor and is also Native American -- I would call this a memoir/love story to the plants and the earth and our relationships with the plant world, from the perspective of both a scientist and someone raised with a Native immersion in history/lore/use/reverence for plants. If you know Cheryl or Virginia, you can get a

"Botany In a Day" is another one to look over...



"Attracting Native Pollinators"... I don't know about you, but I am crazy about bumblebees and all the little native bees that visit our yard. We're doing all we can to keep them happy and coming to our small garden.

"Gardening for Butterflies"



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Puddle Stompers Program:

One of our most popular programs, our Puddle Stompers preschool program, is being updated to include more curriculum and organization. We have many dedicated volunteers who have kept this program running strong and we want to give a special thanks to Ruthann Panck and Tina Peterson for developing the curriculum and assembling materials.



Field Trips

Field Trip season is in full swing starting in April: We have 7 field trips planned with local elementary schools coming to learn about birds, habitats and animals on the wildlife refuge this month.



Naturalist Training

Thursday, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11
09:00 AM - 3:00 PM

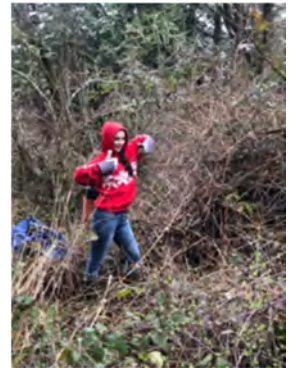
Our naturalist training dates are the Thursdays listed above. We go over techniques with working with groups, what our curriculum looks like, and we get out on the refuge to get to know it more. This Naturalist Training will focus on fine tuning curriculum and making the program more clear and organized for both participants and Naturalists. We have 15 new naturalists attending training and around 5-7 returning naturalists assisting with training and teaching training.

FRIENDS RESTORATION REPORT

Restoration Work Party

Southridge High School Thespians Society Troupe #6012 were all smiles, even after spending the day remove piles of invasive blackberry bushes from the Wetland Overlook Area. Blair Anderson, President of Southridge Thespians coordinated with Nathan Kossnar, Friends Habitat Restoration Specialist for this volunteer event.

Nathan Kossnar hosts monthly 2nd Saturday work parties and can also be contacted to arrange additional opportunities for groups to volunteer with restoration efforts.

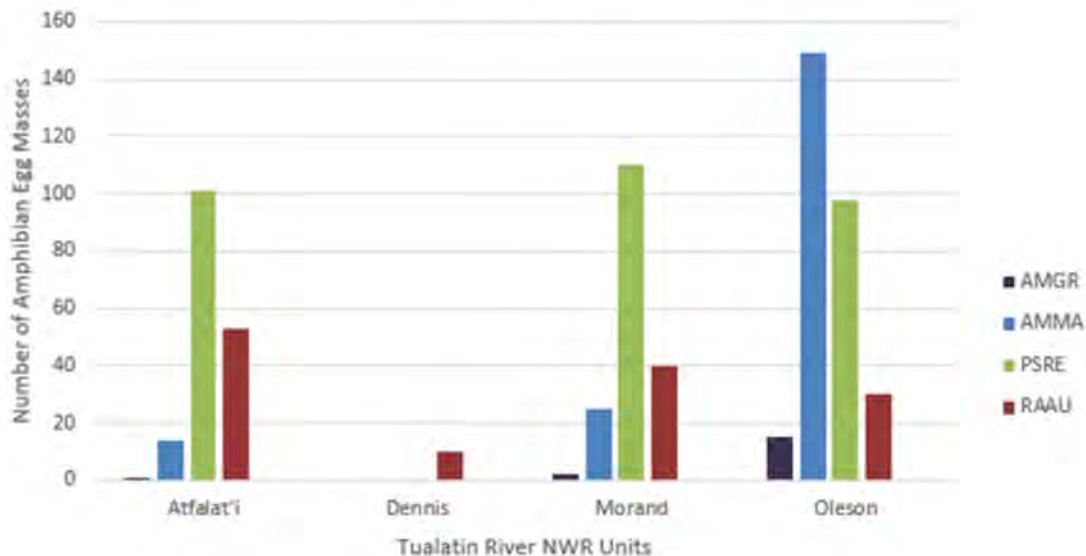


Tualatin River Photo Society

Please join us for a Photo Society meeting on Thursday April 4 at 7 PM in the TRNWR Visitor Center.

Al Baker will entertain us with his photos and stories from a photo trip to Alaska, followed by the usual sharing of photos so bring in your jpg files on USB drives or bring in your prints (max 5 files or prints please).

Amphibian Egg Masses Found In Wetlands Across Tualatin River NWR



Amphibian egg mass survey season has wrapped up. We totaled over 45 hours of volunteer time over the course of a few weeks. Chorus frogs, despite laying later than expected, were overall the most frequently found egg masses. The main wetland at Oleson is generally the most diverse wetland unit we survey, having found all four species present on both of our survey outings. On Sunday, there is a volunteer appreciation party for all the folks who gave their time to help either TRNWR, Metro, Wetlands Conservancy or Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation. A successful end to another survey season!

Now that spring is upon us, spray season is about to begin. I have been setting up equipment and surveying areas that are starting to green up, primarily reed canary grass areas where the wetlands are receding and drying out. This mostly includes patches of land on the main unit and the Oleson Oak uplands. A lush refuge is just around the corner. Spot spraying of troublesome species, such as poison hemlock, will begin as well.

We have started draining the wetlands on the main unit to prepare for Chicken Creek construction and vegetation management. The landscape is starting to shift towards summer!

Friends of the Refuge donated \$300 for a volunteer appreciation party that was held at Pips & Bounce on Sunday, March 24. Egg mass survey volunteers from our Refuge, and the surrounding counties attended.

AMGR Northwest Salamander



AMMA Long Toed Salamander



PSRE Pacific Chorus Frog



RAAU Northern Red Legged Frog



CONTACT US

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Sherwood, OR 97140
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A mink recently discovered at the entrance of a large beaver lodge on the main unit.



Wapato Lake NWR Furakawa Bridge Repair

A recent bridge inspection closed the Furakawa Bridge at Wapato Lake NWR until some of the bridge decking could be replaced. While doing this repair, further bridge damage was uncovered. A second inspection revealed two bridge girders that also needed to be replaced, as well as a reduction in the allowed weight limit. Because of the temporary condemnation of the bridge, no machinery could be used on the bridge for the repairs. Maintenance staff, along with the help of volunteers Bob Fuquay, Mike Skinner, and Alan Fitzpatrick, were able to replace the two failing girders by hand and get the decking and bumper rails back in place. This historic bridge will provide a third access point to the Wapato Lakebed after the two new bridges are built.

