

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

The Bird Festival has come and gone. With roughly 75 volunteers and 900 plus guests this major event that the Friends, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and an army of dedicated volunteers put on every year is complete. The Bird Festival is a free, family friendly event that highlights the Refuge and allows families to enjoy educational outdoor activities that are suited to all ages. There were wagon rides, an Audubon Society Bird Program, where I met Ruby an 11 year old Turkey Vulture who can smell a carcass from 2 miles away.

There was a pond bug exploration, salmon lifecycle activities, archery, back yard bass, a hunting dog demonstration, information on pollinators, trout unlimited information, bird house building, duck decoy painting, and the list goes on. In addition, many hours of planning and organizing was done by the Board, the Bird Festival Committee, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and multiple Volunteers. And we had numerous sponsors that helped us with this event: There was Bosky Dell Natives, the City of Sherwood, Electronic Wood Systems, Clean Water Services, and Les Schwab tires. These partners in conjunction with our amazing volunteers are what enable us to put this event on.



Hoodoo and her person Mark

I wish I could name all the hard working and amazing volunteers who made this event possible because without them we could not have done it. They are the high performance engine of this event, the soul and breathe of it, whose dedication, commitment, and hard work gave it life. They are the people that put their ideals into action, believe that experiential nature education is the answer to a society that is slowly inching away from the importance of natural world. They have the desire to be the conduit that passes this education along. They are simply the best people you would ever want to be around. And I want to thank them all, Thank You!

A short story: During a bus talk where I was explaining the importance of the Refuge, I was describing some of the habitat. It went something like this; "Did you know that a riparian zone is the interface between land and a river or stream? That riparian habitat in Oregon supports more plants and animals than other portions of the landscape? That riparian habitat is an important contributor to the maintenance of the watershed: it helps with flood control, helps keep our water clean, and our streams healthy? Did you know that riparian areas support high levels of natural biodiversity? That the combination of water, lush vegetation and the connections to other landscapes provides opportunities for many species, plant and animal? And that the refuge has a lot of riparian areas included in its acreage?"

JOIN

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RENEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trailhead Nature Table

June 8, 2019 Noon

[Puddle Stompers-
Butterflies-](#)

June 12, 2019 1:00 PM

Drop In Exploration Days: Wetlands

June 16, 2019 Noon

[Puddle Stompers-
Butterflies-](#)

June 18, 2019 10:00 AM

Trailhead Nature Table

June 22, 2019 Noon

Friends Board Meeting

June 25, 2019 6:30 PM

Trailhead Nature Table

June 29, 2019 Noon

Pollinator Workshop

June 29, 2019 Noon

SOCIAL MEDIA



That's when someone at the back of the bus asks, "What's biodiversity?" The word biodiversity gets thrown around a lot now. I've seen the word, understood it in a paragraph, but never have I tried to explain the concept to someone else.

Seeing my struggle a young woman speaks up, "Think of biodiversity as a single organism, an animal. This animal's internal organs are made up of all kinds of trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. Its circulatory system is made up of soil, roots, streams, and rivers. Its arms and legs are made up of deer, coyote, mink, beaver, birds and fish. The blood is made up of worms, beetles and bugs of all sorts. And in order to be healthy, the whole animal needs these things interacting in healthy ways. Take away the trees; you'll lose some of the insects, wildflowers, birds, and animals; a decrease in biodiversity. All parts of the animal are needed for the whole animal to be healthy."

I asked her where she had learned this, and she stated from a volunteer at the Refuge. That is the power of this kind of work. To all the Volunteers: from the Bird Festival, to the Nature Store, to the naturalists, and everyone in between, thank you, your work is important and it's greatly appreciated.

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/>

HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE
YOU SHOP



Restoration on the Refuge

Friends Provide \$25,000 to assist with Restoration- Volunteers Will be Needed for this Historic Effort

Beginning this summer there will be a major habitat restoration effort underway on the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Reestablishing a channel to mimic the original channel for Chicken Creek will expand and add complexity to the riparian habitat on the refuge. The effort will involve a lot of excavation, dirt movement and planting of new vegetation. At the Friends' May Board meeting, a motion was passed to provide \$25,000 in refuge assistance to provide planting material to restore specific areas. The Friends also support the effort to provide rooted plants in lieu of seeds. This can be more costly, but provide better results overall. One area that will be dramatically impacted is right outside the Visitor Center at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. The ponds will see significant restoration over the next year. Using rooted plants will enhance the survival and establishment of the plants and lead to quicker recovery.

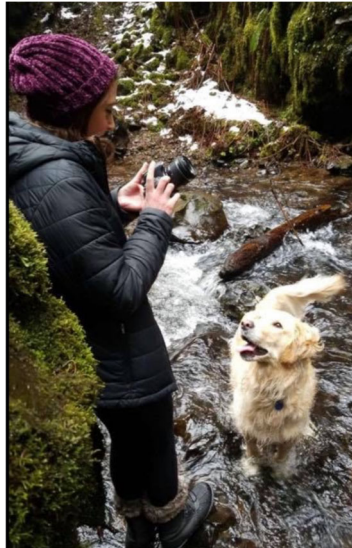
This effort will likely take place in October and will be an excellent opportunity for volunteers to get their hands dirty. It is estimated that several days of work for 20 volunteers per day will be needed.

In January of 2020, there will be similar restoration efforts at Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge, near Gaston. Following construction of a new bridge After replacement of a new bridge there will be adjacent areas that will provide a good opportunity to establish new vegetation by planting rooted stock. This will be the first area restored at Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Friends volunteers can be a part of this historical effort.

Information about these restoration efforts will be provided in the months ahead as specific dates are determined. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the restoration and to personally help shape the future of habitat on the refuge.

Welcome to our new Seasonal Visitor Services Assistant:

Carly Hirschmann has joined the Visitor Services Team for the summer. Carly received her degree from Portland State University in Environmental Science and Management with a Minor in Biology and Sustainability. Carly has also been a valuable volunteer in our Visitor Center for the past year. Carly brings her experience with working with people of all ages to help establish our Summer Trail-head Nature Tables. Carly will be working closely with Andrew DelGreco, and her schedule will be Tuesday-Saturday.



Why are we passionate about the Friends of TRNWR?

Many of us are drawn to the outdoors as it helps us maintain a balance in our busy lives. The restorative effects of being out in nature, observing wildlife, and walking in beautiful, wild spaces are well documented and more vital than ever in our fast-paced world. Many of us first experienced the wonders of nature as children and wish to pass this knowledge on to future generations. Some of us turned this passion into careers, or are inspired to become life-long learners through our continuing connection to what we see and hear at our refuge. Our members enjoy meeting like-minded people in our community. We enjoy learning and enriching our lives through volunteering and we would like to encourage you to join us in helping to ensure that the vital support the group provides for the USFWS continues to flourish. Our volunteer hours as well as the cost of our membership goes right back into the refuge. From restoration projects at both Wapato and Tualatin Refuges to education programs for schools and trail rovers helping families learn on the trails.

A new area that we are promoting is getting our message out in the communities that surround us. We want people to know that the friends not only volunteer as trail rovers that help orientate and enrich visitors' experience on the refuge, but are also running a visitors' center, teaching children about nature as ambassadors in local libraries, and in education programs on site. Friends' members are planting trees, helping conduct population surveys, and eradicating invasive species. In addition to giving time and talent, membership financial support allows us to employ professionals in environmental education, visitor services, and administrative roles.

To get this message out, we will be at **Farmers' Markets in Newberg, Tigard, Beaverton, and Sherwood** promoting membership at a booth over the summer and hope to participate in the Robin Hood Festival parade on July 20th through downtown Sherwood. We need your help to make this happen! Sign up at the link below. We know that your time is valuable, so I've split time-slots into manageable periods.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0845AFA72FA7FC1-fortabling>

Another way that you can help us is to encourage your friends and colleagues to come out and enjoy the refuge.

In addition, we recently added a **Corporate Membership** category to our levels of support. If your business or employer is looking for ways to give back to the community and to promote an environmentally friendly image, Corporate Membership may be the way to go.

Some of the benefits of a corporate membership are:

- ⇒ Satisfaction of knowing your membership dues are helping to protect and conserve wildlife and their habitat
- ⇒ Acknowledgement on the FOR website
- ⇒ A link to your company's home page on the Friends of the Refuge website
- ⇒ Newsletter subscription
- ⇒ Member certificate
- ⇒ Public acknowledgement in annual meetings and/or report
- ⇒ Email notifications of programs and events
- ⇒ Invitations to member only events (up to 10 employees/guests per event)
- ⇒ FOR logo decal
- ⇒ Opportunities to volunteer and get involved
- ⇒ Tax deduction (to the extent allowable by law)

If the above opportunities don't inspire you, how about having a voice on our **membership committee**? We are looking for more people to help us enrich your membership experience with new ideas. Our next meeting will take place on the refuge on **Wednesday, June 26th at 3pm**. If you can't make it, but have a contribution that you would like to make, please email me:

m_scholz@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

Thank you for your continuing support and we look forward to seeing you at the refuge.

Michelle Scholz, Membership Committee Chair



Environmental Education (EE) Programs

The environmental education programs have been very popular this season with a program scheduled almost every day in the spring until the end of the academic school year. There are still some summer group visits after the school season is over but we will not have Friends of the Refuge hosted summer camp this year, instead we will host free weekly drop in days.

Look for weekly Drop in Exploration Days 12:00-2:00 pm starting June 16th into the summer season. Catherine Hudson, our seasonal environmental educator, will be creating programming and leading these drop in days. This drop in days will be hosted out of the Visitors Center environmental education classroom.

Contact Tiffany for more information and how to get involved: tiffany_mancillas@fws.gov or 503-625-5944

Tualatin River Photo Society

Tualatin River Photographic Society (TRPS) provides photographers who have an interest in nature photography a variety of opportunities to improve their skills and share knowledge with others. Photographers of all levels participate in TRPS meetings, field trips, and educational programs. We welcome visitors and new members.

We are a program of the Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, a non-profit organization.

TRPS meets the first Thursday of each month from September through June. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Riparian Room at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, **19255 SW Pacific Hwy, Sherwood, OR 97140.**

On **June 6** one of the Photo Society members will share their photos of a trip to the Galapagos Islands. July and August there will be no meetings but on **September 5th** Adam Bacher will present his work on ravens. ("Commercial photographer by day, artist by night, I've been a professional photographer for 25 years. My latest project took flight three winters ago when I came across a conspiracy of ravens after a day of cross country skiing in February, 2014.")

Wear in the world

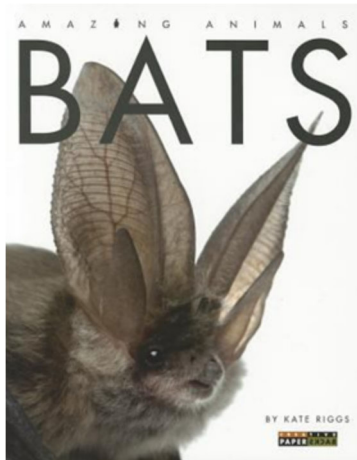
Friends' Board member Cheryl Hart is wearing her Friends t-shirt during a "friendship dance" in a small village on Florian Island, Indonesia. How fitting!



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

NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

Hi, book buying friends – Have you seen these great books for children? Take a look – quite wonderful, and they would make a great gift paired with one of the cute stuffed animals available at Nature's Overlook (and we have one on Woodpeckers and one on Hummingbirds). More new books are in the pipeline – we'll tell you about them next time. Thanks for supporting the Refuge through your purchases at the shop! We appreciate you!



CONTACT US

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