

# MAKING TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NWR

JOYFULLY CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WONDER OF THE REFUGE



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friends Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting Planned

April 26, 2021 6:30 PM

Contact by April 19, 2021

[Info@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org](mailto:Info@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org)

if you would like to receive an invitation to attend our ZOOM meeting.

### Virtual Tualatin River Bird Festival

May 14 & 15

**Native Plant Sale-** TBD (Sept 2021- tentative date)

## Join us online May 14 & 15 for the 25th Annual (VIRTUAL) Tualatin River Bird Festival

- **LIVE-** Presentation on the upcoming release of the **California Condor** back to the Pacific Northwest with members of the **Yurok Tribe, USFWS and the Oregon Zoo**
- **LIVE-** Get an up-close view of the **Chicken Creek Restoration Project with Refuge Staff and Fisheries-** What is lurking in the water and why it matters?
- **LIVE- THIS IS KALAPUYAN LAND –** Five Oaks Museum Guest Curator Step Littlebird Foget (Grand Ronde, Kalapuya) and Mariah Berlanga-Shevchuck, the Five Oaks Museum Cultural Resource Manager. Discuss this ground breaking exhibit “*The exhibition prompts critical thinking around representation of Indigenous history and identity in non- indigenous institutions*”
- **Gerardo Calderon—Music & Storytelling-** The Andean Condor – is the national symbol bird of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Columbia and Chile and is highly respected by many of the people of these countries and has inspired a number of legends,



## SOCIAL MEDIA



- **and so much more-** Please check the Friends 'website starting April 15<sup>th</sup> for all of the details. [www.FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org](http://www.FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org)

## News from Nature's Overlook

While the Friend's retail store remains closed due to Covid-19 restrictions, we want to remind you that much of our inventory is available for purchase online, with pickup curbside on Saturday mornings or by reservation if you need a different pickup time. Please check out our merchandise at <https://bit.ly/2V1I6zP>

We have perfect gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, or any other occasion (or a treat for yourself!). And if you remember something you've seen in our store before but don't find it on the website, contact us at 971-420-5989 and we'll find a way to sell it to you.

This is the time of year when we need to return unsold Federal Duck Stamps to the vendor, to be ready to receive stamps for 2021-2022. We still have a few 2020-2021 stamps, and they are available for purchase on our website until the end of April. They make wonderful gifts and are a great way to contribute to conservation, since 98 percent of the purchase price (\$25) goes directly to help protect and acquire wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

<https://bit.ly/2V1I6zP> - Natures Overlook Online Store link

HELP THE FRIENDS  
WHILE YOU SHOP



## Puddle Stompers is Going Live - Virtually!

Date/Time	Topic
April 14th 10 - 10:30 am	Earth Day
April 21st 10 - 10:30 am	Baby Birds

Send an email to [tualatinriver@fws.gov](mailto:tualatinriver@fws.gov) with the subject line "Puddle Stompers" and indicate which day(s) you would like to attend. We will follow up with a Zoom link.



## This June-Backyard Bird Shop Supports Friends of Tualatin River NWRC

Backyard Bird Shop is celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by giving back to nature. This June -Friends of Tualatin NWRC, along with four other NWR Friends groups will be among the participating nonprofits to benefit! During that month, Backyard Bird Shop will be donating \$1 for every case of suet sold from all five stores in June. With suet being a food that nestlings can digest, this is a perfect time to pick up suet for nesting birds.

[www.BackyardBirdShop.com](http://www.BackyardBirdShop.com)



## Friends assist with Purple Martin Houses

By Carly Hirschmann, Friends of the Refuge

Purple Martins are the largest swallows in North America. Their beauty was once commonplace in Oregon, yet their populations severely declined starting in the 1950's. One possible cause for their significant disappearance is the competition for nesting cavities with invasive European starlings. Another possibility is the loss of snags and nesting cavities due to changing foresting practices. Aside from a handful of sites on Oregon's West Coast, this species has shifted almost entirely to rely on man-made structures for nesting. The Western sub-species of the Purple Martin is listed as "critically sensitive" in Oregon. This means that conservation actions are required to prevent the bird from ending up on the Endangered Species List. Several nearby protected areas have had success in attracting Purple Martins to man-made nesting structures, including Fernhill Wetlands and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

We are hoping to provide a new home for these swooping beauties at our own Refuge! We will be adding 12 new nest boxes to our main unit. The boxes will be out in the open in the middle of the wetland, and visible from the viewing platform with a scope or binoculars. There will be three poles, about 15 ft. high, with four nest boxes hanging on each. We are hoping that there will be an opportunity to get a closer look at the nest boxes via a short walk on our seasonal trail. An interesting yet counterintuitive fact about these birds is that they actually prefer nesting sites which are closer to people. Keep an eye out for this exciting new addition to our Refuge the next time you come by!

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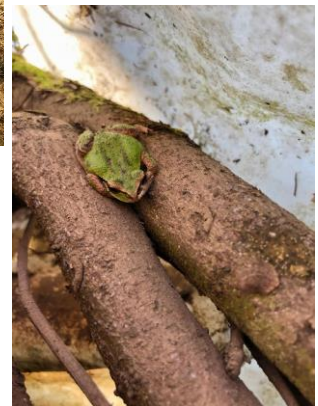
- Friends of TRNWRC donated close to \$400 to purchase supplies needed for this project. Thank you for your support of the Friends so that we can help make a difference on the Refuge.



## Restoration Update from Carly

We have wrapped up our amphibian egg mass and waterfowl survey seasons at the Refuge! Tundra Swans could be seen for a few weeks on our main unit, and Canvasbacks, a large species of diving duck, made an appearance at Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge. A multitude of wildlife have been spotted around

Wapato Lake as the weather warms up, including: coyotes, gophers, and the first deer seen at the edge of the lakebed. A large beaver lodge has also appeared in the middle of the lakebed.



We had a very successful amphibian egg mass survey season! Hundreds of long-toed salamander and pacific chorus frog egg masses were found, along with a decent number of red-legged frog and northwestern salamander egg masses. Most exciting was the amount of red-legged egg masses we found in the Chicken Creek Channel! The Chicken Creek project is an ongoing restoration effort, and we are already witnessing the benefits it's providing to wildlife on the Refuge.

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**May 6th** Our guest speaker and presenter is Darrel Rhea

Here on Behance, I am sharing my personal explorations in photography, art and illustration. It's non-commercial and my source of zen and play. I hope you enjoy and find inspiration in the work. I have been a Designer, Design Management Consultant, and a Design Researcher my whole career. I have been privileged to work closely with many of the world's leading graphic, brand, industrial, interaction, and architectural designers. I have worked on many of the world's leading brands, and have been a design industry spokesperson and advocate for decades. Working with



world-class creative pros has made me very humble. I'm a much better strategist than an artist, but I'll keep trying and learning.

**June 3rd** Our guest speaker and presenter is **Weldon Lee** and the title is **Rocky Mountain Wildlife**

Wildlife photography transports me into the spirit world of my wild brothers and sisters, where I find myself connecting with them and listening to what they have to say. When I create a work of photographic art, I want it to portray the things I see, and hear, and feel, when I'm in that magical space. My art is a collaboration between myself and my wild brothers and sisters.

If Interested in attending a program, please RSVP Willem Stoeller  
- [wstoeller@icloud.com](mailto:wstoeller@icloud.com) . Willem will send you a Zoom invite.

The Friends are working towards becoming a truly inclusive organization that rejects racism in all its forms and embraces cultural and economic diversity. The Board of Directors for the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is keenly aware that despite undergoing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training, we have much progress to make for our organization to reflect the diversity of our urban area. We further seek to give equal value to all voices in helping to articulate our mission, vision, policies and best practices. Although we are directing our outreach to better reflect diversity, equity and inclusion, we understand we need to continue to improve and commit to examining all activities through a DEI perspective. We invite your ideas. We want all to feel welcome and safe to visit the Refuge. We need the quiet, the beauty and the peace that nature and wildlife bring to our souls. It is imperative people of all colors and ethnicities are aware of this sanctuary and comfortable in searching solace.

Friends of Tualatin River NWR Statement on Racism



Notification on wearing a mask on Federal Land (land under executive branch control- such as the Refuge) 1/20/2021 Executive Order

***“... immediately take action, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to require compliance with CDC guidelines with respect to wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and other public health measures...”***

For Refuge updates, please visit the *FWS.gov website*.

When you visit the Refuge, please know that all facility buildings are closed. Port-a-johns are available and the parking lot is partially open. Pets are not permitted on the Refuge, and please use social distancing when walking the trail. See this helpful graphic from our partners at Metro



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Donations to help us continue our work to support the TRNWRC are more important than ever as our Natures Overlook Store is closed.

Consider a donation to the Friends or Shopping our Online Store

[www.FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org](http://www.FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org)

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### **New Refuge Phone System**

The Refuge has new phones and a new phone system. Now when you call the main Refuge number you will get an automated menu with options for: a directory, hours of operation, trail status, and getting re-routed to the state Fish & Wildlife office for injured wildlife calls. To reach someone at the Refuge, you can either wait and listen through the menu or use the first option of the directory to be connected to a specific person. If anyone was in the habit of using previous extensions, they now have '15' added to the beginning of the number (e.g. Friends office extension is now 15227).

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### **CONTACT US**

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