

# MAKING TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NWR

JOYFULLY CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WONDER OF THE REFUGE



JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friends Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting Planned

March 22, 2021 6:30 PM

Contact by 3/18/2021

[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)

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...”***



## SOCIAL MEDIA



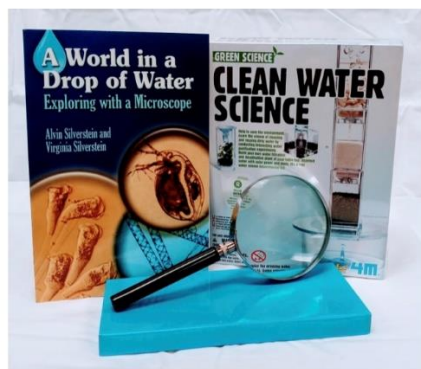
For Refuge updates, please visit the [FWS.gov](https://www.fws.gov) website.

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 these helpful graphic from our partners at Metro.

Support the Friends of the Refuge – shop our online Natures Overlook Store

<https://bit.ly/2V1I6zP>

Curiosity Kits are now available to help keep your student engaged



### Clean Water Kit

\$30.89

\$27.80 - Member price



### Weather Kit

\$35.92



### Dinosaur Dig Kit

\$27.97

\$25.17 - Member price



### Birdwatching Kit

\$24.39

\$21.95 - Member price

HELP THE FRIENDS  
WHILE YOU SHOP





Our online store has a great selection of items to help make any Easter basket extra special – stuffed animals, socks, jewelry books and so much more!

<https://bit.ly/2V1l6zP> - Natures Overlook Online Store link

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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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**Amphibian Egg Mass Surveys are in full swing with the help of both new and returning volunteers!**







**Remaining dates for amphibian egg mass surveys:**

9:00am

March 8<sup>th</sup> March 9<sup>th</sup> March 15<sup>th</sup> March 18<sup>th</sup>

12:00 March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup> (Wapato Lake NWR)

We are counting long-toed salamander and pacific chorus frog egg masses, while collecting more detailed data on red-legged frog and northwestern salamander egg masses. We have seen many exciting things while out on our surveys, including a pair of chorus frogs in amplexus floating by, and the occasional rough skinned newt.



A flock of almost two hundred tundra swans has moved into the wetland at our Oleson (Riverboat) Unit, where we are continuing our seasonal Waterfowl Surveys. You may notice the island in the wetland in front of the Visitor Center start to look different over the next few months. We have planted willow stakes and seeded the island to make it both more aesthetically and biologically pleasing.

Work parties are starting to ramp back up, and you are welcome to shoot me an email if you would like to be added to the short list of interested volunteers! We are still keeping volunteer groups small at this time.

carly\_hirschmann@fws.gov



### 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).



The new pumping station at **Wapato Lake NWR** is now up and operating as of February 23. The two new pumps have been consolidated into one new building on the dam structure that previously housed the non-operational 1930s era pump. The former operating pumps and

their associated buildings have been removed. This is a component of the overall restoration plan for the Wapato Lake wetlands.



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**March 4th** Our guest speaker and presenter  
is John Slonina - **Enhance your Landscape Photography**

This program will provide several techniques on how to take your Landscape Photography to the next Level. Some examples are demonstrated with before and after photos and video making the viewer feel like there are right there onsite. We will also discuss how to get great DOF and compositions to make your photos stand out. This program will help you understand the light and use it to your advantage. How to take care of special weather conditions like fog, rainbows and storms. John will also discuss strategies for photographing water (lakes, rivers, and the ocean). A bulk of this program will have a section on different strategies to deal with contrast and bad light. It is a common problem to have a properly exposed foreground and a washed-out sky or a properly exposed sky and a dark foreground. We will also cover how to use contrast to your

advantage. Which equipment to buy or skip which filters to use and how and when not to use them. There will be a demo on common cell photo apps and software that predict the milky way, sunrise, sunset, tides, and moon rise/set and direction of light.

John Slonina is a professional nature photographer. A passion for wildlife, wild places and teaching has led him down the path to photography. He has been photographing nature for over 30 years. He also has a photo tour company Slonina Photography which leads instructional photo workshops across North America. John's goal is to make everything a fun learning experience. John's subjects include landscape, wildlife, macro, nature, and night photography. His work has been published in calendars, books, magazines and displayed in several galleries. John has presented for numerous camera clubs, nature groups, and photo conferences. His teaching style and humor makes him a popular speaker. You can visit his website for his blog posts, online galleries, and tour schedule.

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

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#### CONTACT US

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