



# Making Tracks

Highlights of the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

June 2007

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## Web Pages of Interest

[Friends of the Refuge](#)

[Tualatin River NWR](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
Service, Pacific Region](#)

## Contact Us

[Friends of the Refuge](#)  
PO Box 1306  
Sherwood, OR 97140  
503-972-7714vm



*This year's May Songbird Festival was a wonderful success with over 650 visitors. Thanks to all our volunteers for their great work!*

## News from the Knoll

### *Wildlife Highlights*

The season has definitely changed as the month of May comes to an end. The large numbers of waterfowl are gone and the water is being drawn down for the summer season.

A pair of adult bald eagles and a pair of osprey have been frequenting the Refuge on a daily basis. Look for them perching and eating in the tall snags centered in the wetlands near Rock Creek bridge and the Wetlands Observation Deck.

Recently Refuge visitors and school children witnessed an osprey chasing a bald eagle that in turn was chasing a second osprey. Several Canada goose pairs are now accompanied by their numerous goslings, and mallard females are with their duckling broods. The black-headed grosbeak, Western tanager and Swainson's thrush can be heard singing in the forest. Several swallow species including tree, cliff, barn and rough-winged can be observed hunting for insects over the Atfalati wetlands. Other sightings include Western meadowlark, yellow-headed blackbird, greater yellowlegs, white-fronted goose, dunlin, pied-billed grebe, cinnamon teal, Lazuli bunting, cedar waxwing, American goldfinch and American bittern.

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## Volunteer Update

### *Second Saturday Work Party Schedule*

**June 9, 2007**

With the recent warm weather the grasses are growing tall and crowding out the trees. We need folks to turn out for the second Saturday work party on June 9 and help trim the grass around the wetland observation deck and trees.

Mark your calendar and come if you can; bring your friends, family and neighbors. Children are welcome, just bring along enough adults for supervision. The work will be on the Atfalati Unit off Hwy 99W. Meet at the main parking lot. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves if you have them. Please arrive by 8:45 a.m.; we'll start at 9:00 a.m. and work to noon, possibly later.

Check the Friends website for information:

<http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/volunteer.html>

### *Volunteer Trail Rover Training – June 27*

The Refuge is offering Volunteer Trail Rover training on Wednesday evening, June 27, 6:30pm-8:00pm at the office off of Roy Rogers Rd. This training will provide you with the tools you need to interact with Refuge visitors, understand the rules and regulations of the Refuge, and learn the history of Tualatin River NWR and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. We will finish the training by roving Refuge trails (1.5-2 hours) the following Thursday evening, or Saturday, or Sunday morning (choose one), to learn features of the landscape and practice with visitors. You can also shadow current volunteers for more practice.

Please RSVP for the training by **June 21** as space is limited. For more information as to whether this is something you would love to get involved with or to RSVP, please contact Janice Jenkins at [Janice\\_jenkins@fws.gov](mailto:Janice_jenkins@fws.gov) or 503-590-5811.

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## Refuge and the Community

### *Measure 37 Presentation*

Kinton Grange hosts a Presentation on Measure 37's Threat to Farmland.

The impact of Measure 37 on Oregon's prime farmland will be the topic at the Kinton Grange's June 5 meeting. Eric Stachon, Communications Director for 1000 Friends of Oregon, will be the featured speaker.

Over 7,500 Measure 37 claims have been filed statewide, according to figures from Portland State University's Measure 37 database project, potentially impacting over 750,000 acres. The majority of claims have been filed on farm or forestland. In Washington County, over 900 claims impacting over 64,000 acres have been filed. The controversial measure has been a hot topic during the 2007 legislative session. A bill to ask voters to reform Measure 37 has passed the house and is expected to pass the senate. Voters would have their say at a special election in the fall.

The program starts at 7:00 pm at Kinton Grange: 19015 SW Scholls Ferry Road, Beaverton.

### *Good News from Salem*

On Monday, May 21, FOR Board member Dick Winn and Education Committee chair Berk Moss traveled down to Salem to meet Governor Ted Kulongoski and to receive a \$50,000 grant from him. This money came from the Governor's Fund for the Environment, which originally came from fines on polluters. Governor Kulongoski distributed nearly \$350,000 in grants to a variety of environmental projects that had been submitted by various organizations.

Friends of the Refuge will use these funds to implement our environmental education field laboratory.

### *More Good News from Washington*

We have received word that last week, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee proposed the largest increase in funding to the National Wildlife Refuge System in history! The Subcommittee, led by Chairman Norm Dicks (D-WA) and Ranking Member Todd Tiahrt (R-KS), heard the requests by thousands of Friends and concerned citizens nationwide by recommending \$451 million for FY08 for the Refuge System's Operations & Maintenance Account.

At times like this, it is extremely important to thank those who have supported the Refuge System, and to encourage them to continue their support. We need to recognize Congressmen David Wu, Peter DeFazio, and Earl Blumenauer, and Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, who were among the 80 members who signed a letter, led by the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus, urging the appropriators to fund the Refuge System at \$451 million. Please take a moment to thank him or her for supporting this increase. You can reach your Representative instantly by calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

This is just the first step in a complex process. The subcommittee's recommendation now goes to the full House Appropriations Committee for discussion, debate and passage. If it passes it will be sent to the Senate. The Senate is also preparing to introduce and mark-up its own Interior Dept. Appropriations legislation.

These beginnings are very significant. Help by contacting both Senators and letting them know you support this funding. You can also reach our Senators by calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

### *Landfill Update*

Thanks to all Friends of the Refuge who have expressed concern regarding Lakeside Reclamation Landfill and its impact on the Refuge. This issue has received lots of attention and the Oregonian has recently run articles by Rick Bella and Steve Duin. As the mission of the Friends is the protection of the habitat for the Refuge we are closely monitoring this issue. The Friends of the Refuge encourage members to take action as they deem appropriate to help fulfill our mission. Here is an update on recent happenings.

The group of neighbors and concerned citizens, Citizens for Oversight of Beaverton Landfill (COBL), has been working to bring Lakeside Reclamation Landfill into compliance. Members of COBL met with representatives of DEQ on May 22. These DEQ representatives have

been responsive to concerns and discussed what they are planning to do to bring Lakeside into compliance. DEQ is reviewing a Financial Assurance Plan from Lakeside and are working to make sure they require a new land-use approval from Lakeside. The stockpiling of concrete and dirt, and a newer berm, all of which are outside the footprint of the landfill, are also being discussed at DEQ.

Members of COBL also attended the Measure 37 hearing on May 22 at the county building where it was decided to postpone the hearing of the claim until a later date, probably before November.

On May 25 members of COBL met for the first time with representatives with all agencies affected including DEQ, Washington County, and Metro. The intent was to discuss everyone's objectives for resolving the Lakeside issue. Limited progress other than airing of the issues was made at this meeting.

Metro is in the process of implementing new recycling rules which will impose much stricter standards as to what enters landfills. Lakeside is seeking an exemption from these new rules. On June 13, the Metro Policy Advisory Committee Meeting will meet and present their recommendations to the Metro Council regarding the recycling rules that will be going into effect next year. No other facility has such an exemption and, if Lakeside is granted one, it will allow continuing flows of dangerous materials into the landfill. On June 21, the Metro Board of Commissioners will vote whether to accept or reject this exemption. Members of COBL will be attending that meeting and offering testimony.

#### **How can the Friends help?**

Attend the community meetings sponsored by the COBL. The next meeting is June 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Crescendo Farms horse arena, 19809 SW Aten Rd. Beaverton, 97007.

Write letters to Metro stating you do not support granting Lakeside an exemption from the new recycling rules and regulations.

Get the word out to the public that an unlined, outdated landfill exists on the banks of the Tualatin River in an area zoned Exclusive Farm Use.

For further information please call: Liz Thoresen 503-628-2490 or email: [rwthor@gotsky.com](mailto:rwthor@gotsky.com)

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## Upcoming Events

### *Nature Walk & Ice Cream Social - June 16*

The Friend's 3rd Saturday Activity will include Bluebirds, a Nature Walk and an Ice Cream Social on the Tualatin River Refuge (Atfalati Unit off Hwy 99W) on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am-12:00pm. Bob Swanson will discuss bluebirds and birds of the Refuge. Join us immediately following the program for an ice cream social to thank our renewing members. Please RSVP by June 12 if you will be attending this event so we won't run out of ice cream. RSVP to Becky Long: [becky.long@comcast.net](mailto:becky.long@comcast.net)

Also mark your calendars for July's 3rd Saturday Activity (July 21) which will be about dragonflies and damselflies!

Check the Friends website for information:

<http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/volunteer.html>

