



Making Tracks

Highlights of the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

November 2007

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Service, Pacific Region](#)

Contact Us

Friends of the Refuge
19255 SW Pacific Hwy.
Sherwood, OR 97140
503-625-5944 ext.227

News from the Knoll

Seasonal Closure in Effect Until May 1, 2008

With the change in the season, the ducks and geese are arriving on the Refuge by the hundreds. On their southward migration from their Arctic nesting grounds, these birds need our refuge wetlands to feed and rest. Please take note that the seasonal trails (the service roads) are now closed until May 1, 2008 to allow the wintering waterfowl the sanctuary they need. The one-mile-long year-round trail (that begins at the main parking lot and takes visitors to the Wetland Overlook) remains open for your enjoyment.

Along with the arriving waterfowl have been frequent sightings of Bald Eagles. Visitors have been enjoying regular shows by eagles perched in tree snags in the wetlands. The best views are from the plaza overlook next to the new Wildlife Center.



Bald Eagles are a frequent sight on the Refuge. Look for them perched in the large snags located in the center of the wetlands.

Volunteer Update

Nature's Overlook Provides an Opportunity to Spread the Word About the Refuge

Working as a volunteer in the Nature's Overlook store or at the Visitor Information desk, both to be housed in the new Wildlife Center, gives supporters of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about the mission and importance of the Refuge.

With the delay in the opening of the Wildlife Center, training for volunteers has been rescheduled for January. There are still openings for those of you able to volunteer four or more hours per month at the Center. You can add your name as a potential volunteer by contacting Carolyn Penner at carolynpenner@comcast.net or 503-579-5822.

Photographers- Chance to Win with Your Refuge Photos

Help spread the word . . . the annual search for the new photographic image that will adorn the 2009 Federal Recreational Lands Pass — more formally, the America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass — is still underway. Photographers! You really want to check this out. One of your photographs taken on the Refuge could win you a new 2008 Toyota Highlander Hybrid. Go to the National Wildlife Refuge Association web page, www.Refugenet.com and click on 2008 Refuge Photography Contest for entry details.

Refuge Photos Sought for New Brochure

Here is another opportunity for photographers to show off their Refuge photos: the Friends brochure is going to be revised and updated. If anyone would like to share their photos taken on the Refuge of wildlife, plants, spring flowers, or visitors enjoying the Refuge, please contact Janice at: Janice_Jenkins@fws.gov or 503-625-5944 for more details.

Refuge and the Community

Education Committee Highlights

The Friends Educational Committee worked hard the past four years helping launch and lead the Refuge's Environmental Education (EE) program. Last year alone, the Refuge reached over 1,000 students during school field trips. As noted below, a dedicated group of volunteers has been hard at work and there's more exciting work to be done.

Over the last two years Educational Committee Chair Berk Moss, Americorps member Janice Jenkins, and current member Rachel Kutschera have organized and lead teacher workshops and scrutinized educational supplies for the EE program and the new indoor laboratory. Berk and Refuge staff member Kim Strassburg have also written grants to obtain funds for the indoor laboratory. The Refuge's numerous volunteer naturalists have served many hours accompanying school field trips and sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for nature. The Refuge's "teacher team" - June Poling, Sue Manning, Yvonne Brayko, and Nancy Fallin, have enthusiastically written curriculum, participated in teacher workshops, provided feedback, and brought their students out for field trips on the Refuge. Volunteers Diane Harris and Michele Shapiro have started assisting in developing new curriculum for the indoor lab.

A big thank you goes out to this group of volunteers for all their hard work and time contributing towards the Refuge's Environmental Education program!

Tualatin Focus Group – Help Needed

The Friends of the Refuge have been asked to participate in the Tualatin Visioning Project, Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Focus Group. If you live in Tualatin and would like to be the Friends representative on this Focus Group, send Norman Penner an email at normpenner@comcast.net with your name and phone number.

Upcoming Events

Friends of the Refuge Annual Members Meeting

November 17 (Saturday)

9:30a.m. – 10:00a.m. Social time

10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. Brunch

11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. Member Meeting and Elections

1:00p.m. – 2:00p.m. Nature's Overlook Open

Current and recent Friends members will soon receive a written invitation to the Annual Membership Meeting on November 17 at the new Wildlife Center. You do not want to miss this meeting! The Board will be sharing some great news about the future of the Friends and the Refuge so keep your eyes open for this invitation.

You won't want to miss this meeting or the Brunch and especially not the sneak peek at our store, Nature's Overlook. Children are welcome. Activities for kids 6 years and up will be provided in the new classroom during the board meeting.

Please RSVP via email at programs@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org or go to www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org for more information.
