



Making Tracks

Highlights of the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

September 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

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The new Wildlife Center on the left and the Administrative building on the right. FWS staff members have moved into the new office space, but the Wildlife Center opening date has been postponed.

News from the Knoll

Wildlife Center Update

Construction of the new Wildlife Center is progressing. In the past several months, the Refuge and FWS Engineering staff have overcome many technical challenges in finalizing the work. Unfortunately, our initial October opening date has been postponed, but we are happy to report that very few hurdles are left in getting the buildings all finished.

In June, the Administrative building was complete enough that Refuge staff moved from their old headquarters off Roy Rogers Road into their new office space on the Knoll. We are still emptying the last few boxes and hanging pictures, but all in all, everyone is extremely happy with their new workspace.

The major construction of the Wildlife Center should be completed within 6 weeks and now we have the challenge of furnishing and setting up the interior. The next big task is to complete final planning and design of the interpretive exhibits. We are anticipating the installation of those exhibits late in the year. At the same time, the Refuge and Friends will be stocking the Visitor Information desk and the nature store, as well as recruiting volunteers to staff the Wildlife Center.

The Refuge is planning to open the doors of the Center sometime after the new year, and then to celebrate with a formal dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting later in the spring. This way, everyone can practice

operating the Wildlife Center for a couple of months prior to the big event. If you have questions, please feel free to email Kim at kim_strassburg@fws.gov.

Volunteer Update

Second Saturday Work Party Schedule

September 8th, 9 a.m. – Noon

We will be resetting tree tubes on the forested wetland plantings on the Dennis Unit. When the tubes come apart or lay over, the tree is open for attack by voles. These little rodents love to eat the tree bark, which in turn kills the tree.

Meet at the Dennis Unit (old Refuge HQ). The driveway is at the intersection of Beef Bend Road and Roy Rogers Road. We may be working in tall grass and brush, so be prepared with long pants and long sleeves. Also, bring your garden gloves.

Children are welcome when accompanied by a responsible adult. Be aware that yellow jackets sometimes use the tubes for nests.

Go to www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/volunteer for more information.

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 4 or more hours per month at the Center. You can add your name as a potential volunteer by contacting Carolyn Penner at 503-579-5822 or email carolynpenner@comcast.net.

Refuge and the Community

Kinton Neighborhood Barn/Estate Sale — A Benefit for "Stop Lakeside Landfill"

**13746 SW Pleasant Valley Rd., Beaverton, Oregon 97007
September 7 & 8 (Friday & Saturday), 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

LIVE MUSIC, FURNITURE, LINENS, PLANTS, EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, BOOKS, CLOTHING, TOYS, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, TOOLS, AND FOOD! This barn sale will be a fun neighborhood event! The ED Sullivan Band will be playing and homemade food will be available for purchase. Please don't miss this opportunity to be a part of our wonderful community. Donations are greatly appreciated! All proceeds will go toward the cause of bringing Lakeside Landfill into compliance.

For more information go to www.stoplakesidedump.com or call Leslie at 503-830-7406, Liz at 971-570-4497 or email info@stoplakesidedump.com

Featured cover article in *Willamette Weekly*:

GRAPES OF TRASH: www.wweek.com/editorial/3336/9254/

Free Teacher Workshop

**September 29 (Saturday), 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
at the new Refuge Headquarters**

The Refuge will present a free teacher workshop to provide educators with the tools they need to bring students out for teacher-led field trips. We offer an environmental education program that enables students to learn the value of our ecosystems. This program extends the learning process beyond conventional classroom limits, thus allowing students to make connections with their natural environment. K-12 teachers (in-class and home school) are invited to attend.

For a sneak preview of the Refuge's curriculum, visit www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/

Please note that workshop attendance is required: Only teachers participating in the workshop will be able to schedule their class for a field trip to the Refuge.

Please RSVP by September 21, 2007 to Americorps member Janice Jenkins at Janice_Jenkins@fws.gov or 503-625-5944.

Open House with Refuge's Law Enforcement Officer

Meet the Tualatin River Refuge's law enforcement officer Betsy Rosenbaum on Tuesday, September 25, for an open house forum at 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., and again at 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

This event is open to all Friends members and Refuge volunteers who want to meet Betsy and learn more about law enforcement issues concerning the Refuge, get tips on how to meet and greet visitors, learn how to handle violations, and get answers to your questions and concerns.

Meet at the Refuge's new Wildlife Center off Hwy 99W near Sherwood.

Upcoming Events

Family Day at the Refuge

September 15 (Saturday), 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Our 3rd Saturday Activity in September will focus on families. The festivities will begin at 10:00 a.m. with children's activities in the breezeway between the buildings, followed by a walking tour to the wetland observation deck at 11:00 a.m. and a pond activity.

We will wrap up the day with a "Sack Lunch Picnic" before saying goodbye to our new friends. Please provide your own lunch and beverage. Dress for weather conditions.

Please visit the Friends' website [Calendar](#) for more information.