



# Making Tracks

Highlights of the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

January 2008

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## Web Pages of Interest

[Friends of the Refuge Tualatin River NWR](#)

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

## News from the President

### *Landfill Still Threatens Refuge*

#### Friends urged to provide input at DEQ meeting January 8th

The Lakeside Reclamation Landfill is a privately held landfill that sits on the banks of the Tualatin River, directly across from the Refuge boundary upstream from the majority of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

According to the Oregon DEQ it has leached pollutants into groundwater and accepted "frequent" loads of unpermitted materials. It is unlined, has a failed cover and is a direct threat to the water quality of the Tualatin River and the Refuge.

While the State of Oregon appears ready to have the Lakeside Reclamation Landfill stop accepting new waste by July 2009, the new permit stops short of providing adequate protection and safeguards for the protection of the river and the Refuge. For example, none of the following are being required by the new permit:

- A geomembrane cover for the landfill.
- A water treatment system monitored by DEQ, not Lakeside.
- A system to treat the documented methane on the site.
- Water discharge permits.
- Monitoring of incoming loads by an independent entity, to ensure that no additional toxic material enters the landfill.

DEQ is asking the public to comment about the draft permit for the Lakeside Landfill. This public process ends on January 15 and concerned citizens will be able to present written and/or oral testimony at 6:30 pm on January 8th, 2008 at the Beaverton Community Center (12350 SW 5th St. #100, Beaverton, OR 97005). The Friends of the Refuge will offer formal statements regarding our position at the January 8th meeting and encourages Friends to attend that meeting to show support and/or provide statements. In particular, we will be requesting stronger safeguards to protect the Tualatin River (and the Refuge) from known contaminants at the Landfill.



In 2006 Lakeside was cited by the DEQ for accepting these bags of dangerous asbestos waste

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

We also encourage all Friends to send written comments to the attention of:

Amanda Romero, Permits Coordinator  
DEQ Regional Office  
2020 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 400, Portland, OR 97201  
Fax: 503-229-6945, Email: [Romero.Amanda@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Romero.Amanda@deq.state.or.us)

The DEQ will send you information as it comes available regarding Lakeside's permit renewal. This information should keep you current on permit renewal meetings and other activities. To receive information via email, we need all those interested in Lakeside Reclamation's DEQ permits to subscribe to DEQ's email service. You can sign up by sending an e-mail to [subscriptions@deq.state.or.us](mailto:subscriptions@deq.state.or.us).

In the e-mail please state that you would like to get information regarding Solid Waste in DEQ's Northwest Region. You can also learn more about the service by visiting <http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/news.asp>.

If possible, please attend the January 8 meeting or provide a written statement by the 15th to show your support for the Refuge. Thank you for your help with this critical issue.

For the Notice of public hearing document, visit:

[http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/publicnotices/uploaded/071128\\_4030\\_Lakeside-PN-07-SW.pdf](http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/publicnotices/uploaded/071128_4030_Lakeside-PN-07-SW.pdf)

To view the Draft Permit document, visit:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/permits/Lakeside-P-07-SW.pdf>

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## Volunteer Update

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

With the delay in the opening of the Wildlife Center, training for volunteers has been rescheduled for late January 2008. There are still openings for those of you able to volunteer four or more hours per month at the Center. Contact Carolyn Penner to add your name as a potential volunteer: 503-579-5822 or [carolynpenner@comcast.net](mailto:carolynpenner@comcast.net)

### *Second Saturday Work Party Schedule*

#### **January 12th, 9 a.m. – Noon**

Mark your calendar and come if you can to plant more shrubs on the Oak Knoll. Bring your friends, family, neighbors and children are welcome, just bring along enough adults for supervision. The work will be on the Atfalat'i 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. Snacks provided. Go to [www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/volunteer](http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/volunteer) for more information.

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## Refuge and the Community

### *Housing Needed for Summer Refuge Intern*

Can you provide housing for an intern for the summer? Refuge staff will recruit for a Biological Resource Assistant through the Student Conservation Agency (SCA) for the 2008 field season. SCA does cover for basic expenses through a travel grant and a food allowance, but housing is responsible for the host agency. If the Friends membership can offer housing, then the staff will proceed with screening and interviewing candidates. The position is important as it provides needed assistance in habitat restoration maintenance such as watering, mowing, and

weeding of new plantings and helps out the biological monitoring program that includes mapping invasive plants. The Friends have done a pretty good job of turning out volunteers to help with winter plantings, but the summer work needs outweigh what we can provide the Refuge. The long-term goal is to have refuge housing available for seasonal positions such as this, but funding for a bunkhouse is still out a few years. If you are interested in assisting the Refuge in this endeavor please contact Deputy Refuge Manager, Chris Lapp (503) 625-5944.

### *Online Training Helps Volunteers Fight Invasive Species*

In collaboration with the Center for Invasive Plant Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System has designed an online training course for volunteers interested in fighting one of the single greatest threats to the Refuge System—invasive species.

The Refuge System has worked aggressively to combat invasive species, targeting more than 280,000 acres of refuge lands. Yet an estimated 1.72 million acres remain untreated.

The website [www.fws.gov/invasives/volunteersTrainingModule](http://www.fws.gov/invasives/volunteersTrainingModule) includes video, text and photos that provide background on the Refuge System and information about the science and management of invasive plants. The site also includes an invasive species knowledge test and links to government and private Web sites dealing with the issue.

In 2003, the Refuge System joined The Nature Conservancy, the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the U.S. Geological Survey in training volunteers to use hand-held GPS devices to map invasive species on national wildlife refuges.

"We want volunteers to be able to engage their communities on the issue of invasives," said Jenny Ericson, national invasives volunteer coordinator for the Refuge System. "The online training provides practical tools for educating local groups about the importance of preventing and controlling invasive plants. Volunteers can be our greatest advocates in the fight against this major nationwide threat to wildlife and habitat."

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## Upcoming Events

### *Doug Robberson: Waterfowl & Their Predators*

Join expert birder and Refuge volunteer Doug Robberson on Wednesday January 16, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm for a multimedia exploration of the many waterfowl species and their predators that call the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge home. A follow-up nature walk with Doug is scheduled for the following Saturday, January 19, 9:00am. You must attend the Wednesday presentation to take the walk on Saturday. Free! Advanced reservations required. 30 participant limit. Presentation will be held at Tualatin River Refuge's Wildlife Center's multimedia room. RSVP at: [Programs@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org](mailto:Programs@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org)

### *Tour of Refuge's Oleson Parcel: Sunday, January 20, 2:00pm*

Join Refuge Deputy Manager Chris Lapp and Restoration Committee member Bob Swanson for a tour of the Oleson Parcel on the Riverboat Unit of the Refuge. Meet at the Wildlife Center where Chris will present a brief introduction about the history of the property, how it was acquired, BPA's continuing support for the restoration work, and plans for the future. Refreshments will be served. We will then carpool to Oleson. Participant is limited, RSVP to: [restoration@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:restoration@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)