



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

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Photo Credit - Cover: Millard Kent, member of Tualatin River Photographic Society.



This year, FOR joined the social media universe! If you're a member, please "like" the Friends Facebook page and keep up-to-date on what's happening at the Refuge and in the National Wildlife Refuge System as a whole.

We want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all the Past Presidents of the Friends of the Refuge whose dedication, elbow grease, and extraordinary powers of persuasion were instrumental in helping the Refuge evolve to the stage it has reached today!

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1994-95: | Lavern Cary |
| 1996: | Bob Bryant |
| 1997-99: | Joan Patterson |
| 2000: | Jane Foreman |
| 2001: | Jane Foreman and Joan Patterson |
| 2002: | Scott Schroeder |
| 2003: | Scott Schroeder and Joan Patterson |
| 2004: | Joan Patterson |
| 2005-08: | Norm Penner |
| 2009: | Steve Burke |

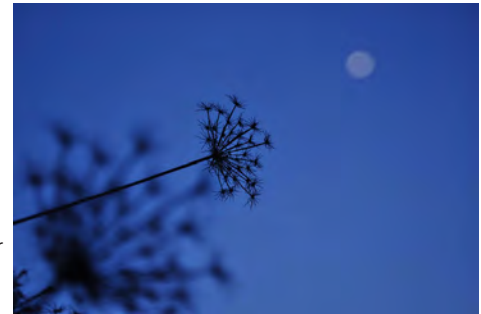
2010 Annual Report

Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This last year was remarkable in a number of ways. It has allowed Friends to grow and become more connected to our community and it has led us to the start of a new path:

- Led by Bonnie Anderson, Friends volunteers held a very successful Songbird Festival in May.
- Volunteers put in 13,800 hours work on the Refuge, in the Visitor Center, on the trails, and in the Education classroom.
- 93,000 visitors came to the refuge and Education and training programs served 3,350 teachers and students.
- The first annual photo contest was sponsored by Friends and Pro Photo. Images by contest participants are highlighted throughout this report.
- Our Store Committee's continuing hard work brought in more Refuge Specific merchandise for sale in Nature's Overlook. 2010 sales were over \$43,000.
- Six Friends members attended the Regional Friends conference on the Oregon coast.
- We received a new grant from Washington County Visitor Association for an expanded, three-day Songbird Festival in May, 2011.



Maiya Rait, Youth Photo Contest Participant

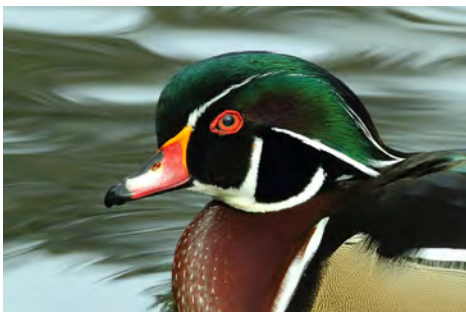
Thanks to several of these new grants, Friends was able to bring on board several new people:

- Sarah Gray (nee Dunham) as Wildlife Center Coordinator;
- Jenna Mendenhall as Environmental Education Specialist working with the Sherwood School District,
- and Gardiner Platt, Intern, as EE Coordinator

However, our continued growth in the year ahead brings new challenges:

- Three of the Friends' Directors resigned and will need to be replaced and we will need a new Treasurer in the coming year.
- Plans for a three day Songbird Festival in May, 2011, are moving along but we will need many more volunteers to make this an event to remember.
- The Refuge is beginning its Comprehensive Conservation Planning (CCP) process. This congressionally-mandated process will require input from the interested public (of which the Friends is an important member). The Plan will also bring new challenges to Friends and will require more volunteers and funding to assist FWS.

As we grow, the need for volunteers and funding grows with us. We want to invite you to be a special part of this exciting time at the Refuge. You can do this by volunteering your time and energy in areas that are of interest to you.



Craig Strand, Photographic Society member.

As you leaf through this report, enjoy the photographs taken by participants in the photo contest and members of the Tualatin River Photographic Society (see report, p. 9). Whether you join this group, or the steering committee for the Songbird Festival, or help to identify new sources of grant funding and donors, or consider increasing your membership to the next level, we encourage you to take some time this year to enjoy the Refuge and help us keep it a haven for wildlife and humans both.

Thanks for all you do for the Refuge!

Robert H. "Mac" McSweeney, President

FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Becky Long, Treasurer as of September 30, 2010

This past year has been challenging in many respects:

- With growth comes more reporting and accounting requirements especially related to designated grant funding.
- The Friends upgraded to a recent version of Quickbooks and consulted with an expert to set up tracking these grants.
- In addition, information from daily transactions from Nature's Overlook Store, was not accurately importing into Quickbooks. It took several months to remedy this and achieve what I consider to be the "next level" of reporting capability.
- Several major grants did not materialize due to the poor economy and caused a shortfall of cash at year-end.
- The Friends have also enlisted the help of a CPA to review financials and prepare tax documents.

I would like to personally thank one particularly dedicated and trusted volunteer who has been the "glue" which holds our business together. Dawn Carovano has faithfully performed office duties the entire year. From keeping the membership database up to date, to making deposits, reconciling accounts and posting transactions, Dawn has been a valuable contributor to the success of FOR as a business.



Dawn Carovano, volunteer extraordinaire, has been the "glue" holding the Friends' business operations together as we experience the growing pains of a successful non-profit organization. Thank you, Dawn, from the Board of Directors and all the Friends!

FOR Balance Sheet

Submitted by Becky Long, Treasurer

as of September 30, 2010

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 10000 · FOR Checking Homestreet Acct | 3,512.41 |
| 10100 · FOR MoneyMkt Bus. Partnership | |
| 10100.2 · FOR MoneyMkt-Restricted Funds | 7,594.49 |
| 10100 · FOR MoneyMkt Bus. Partnership - Other | <u>2,073.93</u> |
| Total 10100 · FOR MoneyMkt Bus. Partnership | 9,668.42 |
| 10200 · Store Nature's Overlook Account | 13,842.44 |
| 10400 · Festival Home Street | <u>4,081.19</u> |

Total Checking/Savings 31,104.46

Accounts Receivable

11400 · Grants Receivable Restricted 98,570.00

Total Accounts Receivable 98,570.00

Other Current Assets

12000 · Undeposited Funds 320.00

14000 · Store Inventory 33,095.96

Total Other Current Assets 33,415.96

Total Current Assets 163,090.42

Fixed Assets

15000 · Furniture and Equipment 855.00

Total Fixed Assets 855.00

TOTAL ASSETS 163,945.42

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

20300 · Store Payables 84.12

20200 · Operations Payable 46.87

Total Accounts Payable 130.99

Other Current Liabilities

24100 · Accrued Leave and Payroll 2,047.11

25800 · Unearned or Deferred Revenue 90,577.58

Total Other Current Liabilities 92,624.69

Total Current Liabilities 92,755.68

Total Liabilities 92,755.68

Equity

30000 · Opening Bal Equity 98,798.67

32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets -24,672.40

Net Income -2,936.53

Total Equity 71,189.74

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 163,945.42

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Slated for a Vote of the Membership on 13 November 2010

ARTICLE II: MEMBERS

This amendment changes the date of the annual meeting of members to the month of September to accommodate the change in Friend's fiscal year which now ends on September 30.

2.06 Section 2.06. Meetings. The annual membership meeting shall be held in (November) September of each year. Meetings, annual and special, may be called by the President or at the request of at least 10% of the members by notice mailed, telephone, emailed, or telegraphed to each member not less than thirty (30) days before such meeting.

ARTICLE III: AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

This amendment changes the terms of office for board members from two years to three years and clarifies the language of the terms of succeeding directors.

Section 3.02. Number, Selection, and Tenure. The Board shall consist of not less than seven (7) directors. Each director shall hold office for a term of [two (2)] three (3) years. Vacancies existing by reason of resignation, death, incapacity or removal before the expiration of his/her term shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy caused by resignation, death, incapacity, or removal shall serve a term equal to the same as the director they have replaced. The Board of Directors shall elect a new

director to fill any vacancy, but is not obligated to do so if the Board has at least seven directors.

In the event of a tie vote to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the President shall cast the tie-breaking vote to determine the succeeding director. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of that director's predecessor in office.

This Amendment adds a new section regarding absence from regular meetings:

Section 3.04.1 Attendance Requirements. Directors must make every effort to attend meetings, either in person or by electronic means. Any Director who misses three regular meetings without being excused by the President shall be removed.

ARTICLE IV: AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The Secretary shall be responsible for insuring the production and preservation of the records, correspondence, and administration of the corporation and will be a member of the Executive Committee, ensure that the Board of Directors is notified of all meetings in accordance with these Bylaws and that a Recording Secretary is present at the meetings. He or she shall send a copy of the Minutes to all Board Members *** and perform other duties delegated to the Secretary by the Board of Directors or the Chairperson.

***Deleting this portion for clarity: and, if the Executive Director is not a board member, to the Executive Director,

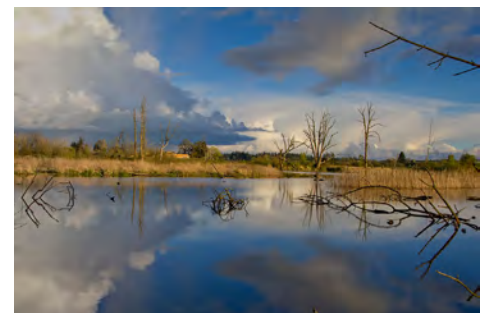
FOUNDING MEMBERS OF FOR

Geoffrey E. Beasley & James H. Sampson, Sherwood Citizens
 Lavern M. and Kathy Cary, Sherwood Citizens
 Walter Hitchcock, Sherwood Mayor, 1992-1996, 1999-2000
 Rick A. Hohnbaum, Sherwood Mayor, 1990-1992
 Spencer Krueger and Mary Lefevre, Sherwood Citizens
 Clyde List, Sherwood Mayor, 1982-1984
 John McGinity, Sherwood Int. School Science Teacher

Norma J. Oyler, Sherwood Mayor, 1986-1990
 Pride Disposal Company, Incorporated
 James H. Rapp, Sherwood City Manager, 1984-1995
 City of Sherwood, an Oregon Municipality
 Sherwood Chamber of Commerce, an OR Nonprofit Corp.
 Marjorie J. Stewart, Sherwood Mayor, 1978-1980

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

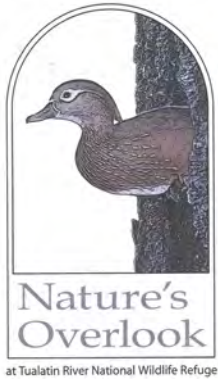
| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Bob McSweeney, President</i> | <i>Chuck Britton</i> |
| <i>Berk Moss, Vice President</i> | <i>Justin Gericke</i> |
| <i>Becky Long, Treasurer</i> | <i>Peter Hainley</i> |
| <i>Cheryl Hart, Secretary</i> | <i>Linda Henderson</i> |
| <i>Bonnie Anderson</i> | <i>Virginia Parks</i> |
| <i>Steve Burke</i> | <i>Norman Penner</i> |



Emily Scharn, Youth Photo Contest Participant

NATURE'S OVERLOOK SALES OUTLET

Submitted by Cheryl Hart, Chair



As Nature's Overlook completes its third year of operation we continue to develop as a source of education for our visitors and revenue for the Friends organization. The Store Committee assumes responsibility for the planning and operation of the store and visitor information in the Wildlife Center. Committee members include Bonnie Anderson, George Burnett, Arlin Inman, Sharon Miller, Carolyn Penner, Virginia Parks, and Cheryl Hart. As always, we receive

great assistance from Sarah Gray. Each of these dedicated members donates numerous hours of volunteer time and creative energy to keep the store fresh and appealing to our visitors.

All profits from our sales return directly to the Friends and help accomplish FOR's broad mission including restoring and protecting refuge habitats and providing wildlife related education and recreation. Friends members receive a 10% discount on all purchases so when you shop at our store, you are being a true Friend of the Refuge.

While many of our 46 volunteer staff members have been with us since we opened, we have trained 12 new volunteers this year. Over 4,500 hours have been contributed by the Store Committee members and our Wildlife Center Volunteers.

Our hours of operation are from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M (5:00 P.M. on weekends from Memorial Day until Labor Day) Tuesdays through Sundays. Store/Information staff welcomed over



17,500 visitors this year compared to fewer than 16,000 last year. Most visitors do not sign our guest book, but those who have signed came from 38 states and 6 foreign countries.

Sales are up this year, in spite of the economy. This year's sales (October 1, 2009-September 30,

2010) totaled \$43,468. Because FWS provides our space, utilities, and maintenance, about 43% of our income is profit. November continues to be our strongest month with holiday shopping and May is the second strongest with Songbird Festival, Mother's Day, and graduation contributing to strong sales.



Items new to the store this year include metal free-standing crane sculptures, "fly-thru" magnetized ornaments and paint-it-yourself kits, puzzles ranging from 35 to 1,000 pieces, and posters of state birds and other bird groups. We will once again feature a calendar with winning photos taken on the refuge and this year, we are also producing a weekly engagement calendar with refuge photos. Another new exclusive product is our shade-grown organic coffee with our own brand label. Roasted and ground by Responsible Coffee in Vancouver, WA, you will soon be able to sign up for a regular monthly delivery of your favorite variety.

A new Friends sewing group is being formed and will produce items that can be sold in the store. Anyone who is interested in participating may contact Carolyn Penner (carolynpenner@comcast.net) for more information.

Administratively, we continue to learn more about and make better use of our inventory management software. We have developed a "best practices" manual to formalize our procedures and each key-player is in the process of documenting his/her duties and training another person to be able to fill in, should the need arise.

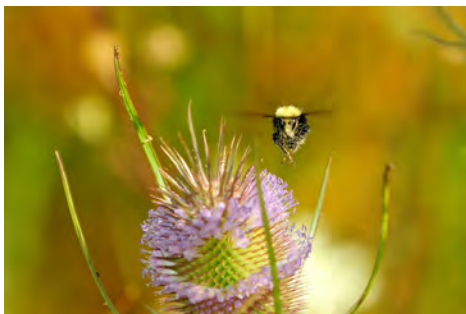
It is my great honor to work with all of the dedicated volunteers and staff at Nature's Overlook and the Wildlife Center. We look forward to an even more successful year in 2011.



The store inventory is expanding every day! Stop in often to see what's new! Remember that buying your gifts at Nature's Overlook is another great way to support the mission of the Friends.

Thank you to our dedicated 2010 Wildlife Center volunteer staff! The Friends could not fulfill its promise to keep the visitor center and Nature's Overlook open without you!

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Judy A. | Cathi M. |
| Barbara A. | Mary Rose M |
| Dorrie A. | Sharon M. |
| Christine B. | Paula M. |
| Valerie B. | Pat P. |
| George B. | Carolyn P. |
| Nan B. | Carole Q. |
| Alice B. | Mynde R. |
| Arleta C. | Dorothy S. |
| Anita C. | Su S. |
| Marty C. | Peggy S. |
| Annabel D. | Marcia S. |
| Darlene D. | Judy S. |
| Judy D. | Marilyn S. |
| Mike S. | Sharon S. |
| Bob G. | Carole S. |
| Karen G. | Jan T. |
| Betty H. | Diane T. |
| Cheryl H. | Bob T. |
| Tom H. | Joan T. |
| Bunny H. | Rosemary W. |
| Twila H. | Aida W. |
| Arlin I. | Carolyn U. |
| Noni I. | |
| Terry K. | |
| Bob S. | |
| Mindy K. | |
| Karen L. | |



Terence Bacuita, Adult Photo Contest Participant

There were countless volunteers who helped with multiple aspects of the Environmental Education Program this past year. Directly supported by funding from FOR, the EE program would not be what it is without the help of our wonderful volunteers, thank you!

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| Larry H | Doug R. |
| Gary F. | Berk M. |
| Miriam S. | Judy S. |
| Diane S. | Susan G. |
| Michele S. | Zach S. |
| Kim K. | Donna N. |
| Bob S. | Barbara A. |
| Dave O. | Marty C. |
| Trudi S. | Dave G. |
| Jane R. | Bunny H. |
| Deb K. | Barbara M. |
| Naomi R. | Jim M. |
| Judy D. | Lauren M. |
| Bill S. | Joslyn K. |
| Ginny M. | Alina L. |
| Mike S. | Dave N. |
| Annabel D. | Carole Q. |
| Debbie M. | Sharon S. |
| Leah P. | Judy S. |
| Laura F. | Ron S. |
| Arlin I. | Jan T. |
| Cheryl H. | Sue S. |
| Nan B. | |
| George B. | |
| Dave L. | |
| Kelsey B. | |
| Marilyn G. | |
| Diane T. | |
| Mynde R | |
| Betty H | |
| Karen L. | |
| Terry K. | |
| Tom S. | |
| Cathi M. | |
| Carolyn U. | |



Guy Larson, Adult Photo Contest Participant

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Berk Moss, Chair

Education

Our delight is seeing kids learning in the outdoors. The Volunteer Naturalists are most rewarded when they can watch enthusiastic kids encountering nature. We accompany school field trips here on the Refuge and provide teacher trainings so teachers can help kids learn both here and beyond the Refuge boundaries.

The environmental education program is a joint effort of the Refuge and the Friends of the Refuge. Little effort is paid to teasing out which hat people are wearing as the work is being done. Most people involved literally own multiple hats whether that of Refuge staff, Friends staff, Refuge Volunteer or Friends member.

Funding

In FY10, the Friends supported the program through a variety of grants.

- REI is supporting Friends volunteer efforts through a grant that will fund a training coordinator for Volunteer Naturalist training in February 2011.
- EE staff are continuing to develop connections to the Sherwood School District. These activities are supported through the Gray Family Foundation, Grasmajeto Fund, Metro's Nature in the Neighborhood, and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.
- Recently we received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to build capacity in our volunteer program. Look for development opportunities starting in 2011.



Curriculum

Our program of teacher-led and Volunteer Naturalist-accompanied field trips is based on teachers selecting lessons for students from our 300 page curriculum. Written and field tested by education committee teachers, it is distributed in each of our teacher trainings and is available on line. We use a green distribution system that provides teachers with a CD of all the pages of the curriculum and online updates. They can then print only the pages they need for classroom use, limiting the impact on the environment.

Teacher Training

The Refuge has continued its partnership with the Oregon Nature Resources Education Program of Oregon State University. There were five teacher trainings this year that reached 90 educators. In addition, there were two other workshops that reached another 43 educators. These workshops included

training for pre-service teachers from Lewis and Clark College, and a new science inquiry workshop, which was in partnership with the Tillamook Forest Center, and Friends of Tryon Creek State Park.

Schools Project

Through cooperation with the Sherwood School District, we provided school site teacher training for the staff of the new Edy Ridge Elementary School. Our consultant met with 65 teachers engaged in co-planning of lessons and outdoor teaching in the school playground and wetlands. For the students of Laurel Ridge Middle School who could not attend the regular outdoor school program, our staff provided an alternative outdoor school day-camp type experience using the school wetlands, a conservation easement property at the headwaters of Chicken Creek and the Refuge.

School Group Visitors

Our program continues to grow as more students are able to visit the Refuge through school field trips. During the 2009/2010 school year, we had 4,228 students visit and participate in Refuge activities. This 10% increase from last school year is especially impressive when schools are facing challenges in finding transportation funding for any school field trip. The month of May was particularly busy, with at least one field trip almost every day. In addition, 2,288 visitors participated in interpretive walks and presentations provided by Volunteer Naturalists.

Special EE Programs

2010 brought the continued success of the Spring Break Exploration Days. During this four day drop-in program, a total of 133 participants attended the event, which included crafts, story time, games, and a biofact buffet, all led by Volunteer Naturalists.



The EE program also expanded its efforts through two Volunteer Naturalist led programs. Puddle Stompers, a pre-school age program, reached 44 nature

enthusiasts through outdoor activities, including a nature walk, story time, and nature-based crafts. Y to Wildlife bridged the Refuge with the Sherwood YMCA after-school and summer day camp youth programs. Over the summer, nature themed day camps were held at the Refuge on Wednesdays. Volunteer Naturalists led small groups of campers on the trail, and conducted activities and games relating to the daily theme.

Volunteers

Although “Connecting People with Nature” is an emphasis of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, government staff limitations mean that most of the field time with kids and training time with teachers is provided by education committee staff and volunteers. Using the Refuge and other USFWS resources we provide programs for school visitors, youth groups, and teachers.

Our dedicated team of Volunteer Naturalists grew immensely this year. At our 4-week training, there were 11 new Volunteer Naturalists who joined the team, which increased the total number to 21 people. This enthusiastic and dedicated team not only worked with school field trips, but also participated in special events, presentations, and activities, and gave over 2,662 hours of their time to the Refuge. We will move the Volunteer Naturalist training to February this school year to have it closer to the peak field trip season. (Join us for this fun!)



Staffing

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funded two AmeriCorps members and is currently funding a full-time Wildlife Center Coordinator. These positions support Friends education efforts through volunteer coordination and development, and program oversight. Refuge staff and Friends volunteers are the backbone for the Refuge’s environmental education program.

Future

As the environmental education program continues to grow, we look forward to reaching more audiences in FY11 through various programs and positions. Here are some of the highlights for the upcoming year.

An Environmental Education Specialist is working with the Sherwood School District for the 2010/2011 school year through a \$25,000 grant from Metro’s Nature in the Neighborhoods program.

Onsite support for classroom teachers will include:

- At least one Project WILD workshop in partnership with Oregon Natural Resources Program
- Two Open Your Eyes to Wildlife teacher orientations
- One week long science inquiry workshop
- A two-day 4-H Sustainable Living Schools and Clubs workshop
- More workshops for pre-service teachers

In 2010, the Friends developed a new internship program to ensure continued support of the education program. Our current intern is coordinating the field trip program, and concentrating on reaching new audiences within the Portland-Metro area. Field trips are heavily supported through our corps of Volunteer Naturalists. A new class of Volunteer Naturalists will complete their 20 hour training program in February 2011.

Although our programs are successfully growing, we are always seeking new and creative solutions to our staffing challenges. Currently all of our staff are temporary, and oversee all of our programs. If you are looking for ways to support the Friends, please consider donating to the education program. experienced naturalists.

Our grant-funded program at Sherwood’s Edy Ridge Elementary School is providing environmental education skill development for teachers and nature experiences for all students attending this new school.

This year’s teacher workshops will include:

- Two teacher orientations.
- Three Project Wild and Project Learning Tree workshops conducted by the Oregon Natural Resources Education Program of Oregon State University. These workshops are modified to include our Refuge orientation for teachers and will be tailored to meet the needs of K-12 educators.
- A two-day 4-H Sustainable Living Schools and Clubs workshop. We hope to expand our reach to up and coming educators by providing trainings to college students who are preparing for their first student teaching experiences.

We are looking forward to this year’s special events, including Spring Break Exploration Days in March and the expanded annual Songbird Festival in May 2010

SPECIAL REPORT:

Tualatin River Photographic Society

Submitted by Norman Penner, FOR Member



Diane Johnson,, Photographic Society member.

interested in forming a photo club to get in touch with him. In the following week Bjorn Fredrickson contacted Norman and the two of them got the ball rolling.

Since then, the club has grown to over 40 "members." At this time it is not a formal club as there are no dues and its monthly meetings are open to anyone interested in photography. It does not yet have any elected officers so Norman and Bjorn continue to serve in the role of conveners. The monthly programs are eclectic & based upon interests of the members.

Its primary focus is on nature photography. Bird photography is among the most challenging so a significant focus of the group is on how to take pictures of birds, especially of the birds on the Refuge.

Giving the organization a name was a major decision. Calling it a "photo club" brought to mind the usual organization of photographers in which competition among its members and with other photo clubs was a primary activity. We wanted to establish a more collegial organization in which both amateurs and professionals would feel welcome. Thus the decision to call it a "Photographic Society." So far, we have been successful in this as we do have several very successful nature/landscape photographers participating along with hobby (amature) photographers.



Tom Nelson, Photographic Society member.

Since its inception, the Society has undertaken

several projects that have both financially benefited the Friends and the Refuge and brought visitors out to enjoy nature.

- Members donated photographs taken on the Refuge to the Store Committee. The Store Committee then produced a beautiful full-sized 2010 calendar for sale in Nature's Overlook. One hundred and fifty calendars were initially printed and all have been sold.
- Members have already submitted photographs for consideration to be used in a 2011 Calendar. The Store Committee is also working on a weekly appointment book containing photographs submitted by the Society's members.
- Members also donated photographs for a Refuge DVD. Bjorn Fredrickson assembled these photographs, created background music and put it all on a DVD. Carolyn Penner, purchasing agent for Nature's Overlook was able to find a source that would reproduce this DVD and create a commercial quality product. This DVD is also on sale in Nature's Overlook.
- Bjorn is in the process of developing the 2011 version of this Refuge DVD again using the photographs taken by Society members on the Refuge.
- The Society also partnered with the Washington County Visitors Association to sponsor the first Washington County Nature & Wildlife Photo Contest. This partnership was established by Norman Penner as he serves on the Washington County Visitor's Association Board of Directors. He also obtained the Sponsorship of Pro Photo Supply and Leupold Optics. These sponsors provided the contest prizes. The contest was hugely successful with over 500 images submitted. Winners were awarded their prizes at the 2010 Migratory Songbird Festival. This contest helped bring out a significant crowd to that event.
- This Photo Contest will be held again from October, 2010 to March 2011 and several new sponsors have been added. They will be donating some very valuable prizes so it will create even more interest among the photographic community. The contest is a significant contribution to the Refuge's and the Friends efforts to raise the public's awareness of the Refuge and its many benefits to the neighboring communities.

The Society is still evolving and hopes to continue to grow. It meets the first Thursday of the month in the Riparian Room at the Refuge Wildlife Center at 7:00 pm. The meetings are open to the public.

RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Bob Swanson, Chair

Quiet is the way to describe the Friends restoration work in the last year. We have helped with a lot of planting over the last decade and some of the properties are pretty well planted up so there just wasn't anything going on this year. There probably will be some planting of trees and shrubs on the Riverboat Unit in the next year or two as there has been a lot of clearing and preparation recently.



Lois Settlemyer, Adult Photo Contest Participant

SPECIAL REPORT:

Lakeside Landfill Lawsuit

Submitted by Steve Burke, FOR Board Member

Background: Working with the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center (PEAC), the Friends of the Refuge has filed a lawsuit in Federal court against Lakeside Reclamation, alleging claims under the Clean Water Act. Lakeside Reclamation operates an unlined landfill on the Tualatin River, and adjacent to Refuge property. The landfill has demonstrated contempt for environmental laws and the safety of the local community. Recent evidence indicates the appearance of toxic leachate from the landfill, and every indication is that the problem will increase over time. Landfill management appears unwilling or unable to address the significant danger to the environment and the Refuge because of its failed stewardship of the landfill integrity, and has compelled this legal action to force controls upon its operations, in addition to obtaining monetary damages for abatement and containment of pollutants. Lakeside has been sending untreated contaminated discharge directly into the Tualatin River, despite continued denials of this practice for years.

FY10 Update: The Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge have been involved as a party to a lawsuit against Lakeside Reclamation in order to protect the refuge from continuing pollution issues created by Lakeside. The lawsuit, filed as United States District Court for the District of Oregon Case No. 08-548, includes claims under the Clean Water Act (33 USC §1365, and Water Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 USC §7002). Lakeside Reclamation is an unlined landfill located in Washington County, and is adjacent to the Tualatin River and refuge property. Lakeside has a long and torrid history of environmental violations, and represents a direct threat to the vitality of the refuge.

In the past year the court considered motions for summary judgment, and made several findings and rulings that favor the position of the Friends of the Refuge in resolving the case. Currently the parties are engaged in settlement negotiations, and we hope to resolve the case in 2011.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Proposed Quarry

Submitted by Steve Burke, FOR Board Member

The Clackamas County Planning Commission is considering an application to allow the opening of a quarry at SW Tonkin Road and Morgan Road. The proposed location is inside the refuge expansion boundary, and poses a threat to the refuge and its habitat. Put in its basic terms, it is not possible to rid a 300-foot deep quarry in sensitive wetland property

without causing irreparable harm to the refuge. The planning process is continuing. Recently commission staff recommended denying the application. A final decision is pending. More information on the quarry can be found at <http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/files4download/ClackamasCoStaff%20ReportRePooleQuarry%20.pdf>

SPECIAL REPORT: News from the Refuge

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 1, November 2010



The refuge headquarters against the backdrop of Mt. Hood / © Bjorn Fredrickson

Invitation from the Refuge Manager: Comprehensive Conservation Planning Begins

With much enthusiasm, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is embarking upon a planning process to review the wildlife, habitat, public use activities, and needs of the refuge, including the recently established Wapato Lake Unit. We welcome you to be part of this process.

The refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) will create a roadmap to guide refuge management over the next 15 years and beyond. An environmental assessment will be developed with the CCP to analyze the effects of the proposed plan and alternatives.

Help Us Plan for the Future!

As we begin planning, we have the opportunity to look at our wildlife and habitat management and public use programs from fresh perspectives. We need to consider what is working well now and where we can make improvements.

The purposes of the refuge will remain the same: to protect habitat for wildlife and to provide compatible wildlife-dependent recreation and education. As part of the CCP, we will assess our current management of wildlife and habitat. We will also review our public use programs, such as wildlife observation and environmental education. We will consider the need for new visitor programs and facilities, particularly at the Wapato Lake Unit.

We invite you to get involved. Learn more about Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge and the

planning process at our website www.fws.gov/tualatinriver.

The first planning step is to identify the issues, concerns, and opportunities to be addressed in the CCP. Your insights and observations are an important part of the process and are essential to provide a complete and thoughtful plan.

Please share your ideas with us by attending our open houses (see page 3 for details) or by submitting comments to the refuge (see page 8 for contact information). Your comments will be most helpful if received by January 10, 2011.

Your participation is critical to the success of this effort – we want to hear from you!

*Ralph Webber, Refuge Manager
Tualatin River National Wildlife
Refuge*

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS - 10/1/09 to 9/30/10

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Lisa Brenner & Tom Stibolt
 Spence Krueger & Mary LeFevre
 Eric Richardson - Next Base Foundation
 Carol Santesson

If your name should be here and you don't see it, please let us know so we can correct our records. Memberships renewed after 9/30/2010 will be included in next year's annual report.