

## **Tualatin River NWR Volunteer Update - April 2010**

**Special Thanks To:** Miriam, Judy D, Berk and Kim for helping with track stamping; Kim, Deb, Judy D., Berk, Miriam, Debbie, Bill, Diane, Dave, Arlin, and Annabel for helping with Spring Break Exploration Days; Naomi, Gary, Diane, Larry, and Dave for helping make Puddle Stompers a smashing success; Don M. for building some fabulous shelves in the Wildlife Center brochure closet; and to all the rovers who have been turning in your reports.

### **April Refuge Events**

April 1: Tualatin River Photo Society Meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

April 7: Refuge Introduction Workshop for volunteers 2:00pm

April 8: FOR Board meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

April 13: Project WILD Workshop in the classroom 8:30am-4:30pm

April 24: Open Your Eyes To Wildlife Educator Workshop in the classroom 8:30am-1:00pm

### **Plant Walk**

Join Refuge volunteer Ginny Maffitt for all of her Spring plant walks! The walks are FREE and open to the public. Ginny will focus not only on plant identification but also their uses, native species, nonnative species and wetland plants. Please RSVP to Sarah at 503-625-5944 ex.234 or [Sarah\\_Dunham@fws.gov](mailto:Sarah_Dunham@fws.gov)

Where: Meet in front of the Wildlife Center

When: April 25 from 1pm-3pm, May 22 from 9am-11am, and June 19 from 8:30-10:30am.

What to bring: Your questions, binoculars, a water bottle, good walking shoes, and please dress for the weather.

### **Training Opportunity for all Refuge Volunteers**

*Introducing the Refuge to Groups and other Guests* - Do you love sharing the story of our Refuge with visiting groups, students and other guests? Have a knack for public speaking or want to improve your skills? Come and learn from the best, share your tips and tricks and practice telling our Refuge story. Open to all volunteers. No RSVP needed. Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Riparian Room.

### **Volunteer Help Needed for table at YMCA Healthy Kids Day and Festival of the Birds**

The Refuge is participating in two upcoming festivals:

1. Healthy Kids Day at the Sherwood YMCA on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9:00am-1:00pm
2. Festival of the Birds at Oaks Bottom on Saturday May 8, 2010 8:00am-3:30pm.

Our table at both events will include an activity (Wetland Bingo), information about the Refuge, and some fun giveaways. Sarah is looking for a volunteer for each event who would like to come help set-up, run the table, and tear down. If you're interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Sarah at 503.625.5944 or [sarah\\_dunham@fws.gov](mailto:sarah_dunham@fws.gov).

### **Songbird Festival Volunteers needed**

Migratory Songbird Festival is coming up fast - Saturday May 15, here at the Wildlife Center, the Refuge trails, and hopefully the EE Shelter. We are planning a fun-filled day that includes a variety of hands-on nature activities, live music, a live bird show, and the results of the Washington County wide photo contest. We will need your help to make it a success. Volunteers are needed for the activities listed below. Please sign up by emailing Bonnie

Anderson for the activity of your choice. Bonnie's email is [bonnieandmarty@comcast.net](mailto:bonnieandmarty@comcast.net). **Please** be sure to write "SONGBIRD" in the subject line. For those without email, just give Sarah a call. Unless otherwise noted, no special experience is required and the volunteer shift runs from 9:30am-2:30pm.

### Mid-April

- Help hanging event posters around town
- Help with mailings

### Sunday May 9th and Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>

- [1] Help Sarah put festival signs up in Sherwood on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and take them down after the festival finished on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Friday May 14<sup>th</sup>:

- Set-up—12:00pm until we are all done. The more the merrier!
- Native Plant pickup—2 or 3 people to assist Ginny in picking up plants from nursery in West Linn. Must have a covered pick-up truck or van. Timing negotiable.

### EVENT DAY, Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> --number of people needed indicated by [ ]

- [6+] Set-Up of tables, chairs, signs, tents, etc 7:00am-10:00am
- [8] Education Activities and crafts
- [2] Welcome Table
- [1] Exhibitor Greeter
- [3] Friends Membership Table \*\*Must be a member of Friends
- [4] Native Plant Sale \*\*Must have plant/gardening knowledge
- [3] Nature Walk Helpers to accompany leaders
- [6] Vehicle/Gate Monitor—2 people each for 3 separate shifts (8:00am-10:00am; 10:00am-12:00pm; 12:00pm-2:30pm)
- [2] Home Depot Visitor Greeter (8:30am-10:30am)
- [2] Spotting Scope Station \*\*Must know your birds!
- [1] Photographer \*\*Must have camera and experience with photographing events
- [1] Photographer's Helper (assists with obtaining release forms)
- [2] Stage and Sound System \*\*Must be familiar with A/V equipment
- [2] Blue Goose \*\*Great for high-school students

### In addition,

- The Store Committee will soon be scheduling shifts at Nature's Overlook for festival day. For those trained, consider taking a shift
- We'll need rovers out on the trails. Not helping elsewhere? Then head out for a stroll! Let us know your plans.
- And last but not least, if you have the time, PLEASE stay after the festival ends to help with the take-down and clean up. Many hands make light work!

### New Volunteer Monitors

Big thanks to all of the volunteers that signed up for bird monitoring this spring. 20 new and returning volunteers were trained to conduct surveys for secretive marsh birds and cryptic shorebirds on the Refuge. Their work will be used in Refuge management decisions as well as national studies. Look for survey results in the Wildlife Center as the season progresses.

### **Biological and Habitat Workshop Series**

In an effort to enhance the knowledge and experience of volunteers, the Refuge will be hosting an evening workshop series. The first event will focus on weed management on the refuge and surrounding landscape with a talk by Vern Holm, Coordinator for the Northwest Weed Management Partnership. Open to all. No RSVP necessary. Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Riparian Room.

### **Thanks again. See you at the Refuge!**

Wildlife Center Coordinator, Sarah Dunham: [sarah\\_dunham@fws.gov](mailto:sarah_dunham@fws.gov) 503-625-5944

Environmental Education Coordinator, Jenna Mendenhall: [jenna\\_mendenhall@fws.gov](mailto:jenna_mendenhall@fws.gov) 503-625-5944

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Biological Volunteer Coordinator, Peter Hvidsten: [Peter\\_Hvidsten@fws.gov](mailto:Peter_Hvidsten@fws.gov) 503-625-5944