

Tualatin River NWR Volunteer Update - February 2010

Waterfowl still abound in the wetlands. Keep your eyes open for pintail, American widgeon, Eurasian widgeon, northern shovelers, ring-necked ducks, green and blue wing teal, and mallards. Raptors are also a regular sight. Look for bald eagles, American kestrels, harriers, and red tail hawks. Western bluebirds have also been spotted in the uplands and the western screech owl has been a regular sight in the forest during January. Other forest sightings include mixed flocks made up of bushtits, sparrows, kinglets, and chickadees among others. Check in with the Wildlife Center Volunteers to see what the most recent sightings are!

Special Thanks To: Arlin, Cheryl, Mynde, and Marilyn who helped with Refuge operations during the Wildlife and Habitat Review; Bob and Joan T. who corrected the email address on hundreds of the photo contest flyers; all the rovers who have been turning in their reports. Thanks again for all you do for the Refuge!

February Refuge Events

February 4: Store Committee Meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

February 4: Tualatin River Photo Society Meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

February 11: FOR Board meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

February 15: Presidents' Day, Admin Office closed.

Volunteer Book Exchange

John (our maintenance worker) installed a bookshelf in the media room in the Wildlife Center. The shelf is home to the volunteer book exchange. If you have books that you have read that you think other volunteers might like, bring them in, leave them on the shelf, and take a book home with you to read. Don't know where the media room is? Ask the Wildlife Center Volunteers to point you in the right direction!

Refuge Photo Contest

The Friends of the Refuge is excited to be teaming up with the Washington County Visitors Association, Pro Photo Supply, and Leupold & Stevens to present the *Washington County Nature & Wildlife Photo Contest*. Participants are invited to submit nature and wildlife images taken in Washington County and on the Refuge. There are adult and youth categories, so spread the word! Entries will be accepted through April 1, 2010 and the winners will be announced at Songbird Festival. For additional information visit the Friends website at: www.friendsofthetualatinrefuge.org

Songbird Festival is coming May 15, 2010!

We are going to need lots of help leading up to Songbird Festival with planning, organizing, and promotion. During the day of Songbird Festival, we're looking for a few folks who would like to lead guided nature walks. Think about ways you would like to help and don't hesitate to get in touch with ideas and questions.

AmeriCorps Volunteer Naturalist Coordinator has arrived

Stacie is finally setting up her cubicle! She is staying busy meeting everyone, learning the Refuge ropes, adding volunteer events to the calendar, and getting out on the trails. If you haven't had a chance to meet her yet, please stop by the Admin building to say "Hello".

Raptor Road Trip

Explore Sauvie Island in search of magnificent bald eagles, hawks and falcons that spend the winter on the island. On this special day devoted to raptors, experienced naturalists and hawk experts host activities and answer your questions at four locations around the island. Enjoy guided bird viewing, meet live raptors up close and sharpen your hawk identification skills.

When: Saturday Feb. 6 from 9:00am to 2:00pm

Where: Sauvie Island. The road trip begins at Kruger's Farm Market and pick up your event map and raptor identification guide.

What to Bring: **The event fee is \$10 per vehicle, cash only**, and includes a Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit. No registration needed.

Open House at Audubon Wildlife Care Center

Audubon is hosting an open house at the Wildlife Center where visitors can learn what happens behind the scenes. Guided tours will give you a peek into the exam rooms, questions and answer sessions with the veterinarians will answer your burning questions, art supplies will be available for the artist in your group, and everyone will get a chance to meet the resident raptors. No registration is required.

When: Feb. 14 from noon-4:00pm

Where: 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland, OR 97210

What to bring: Family, friends, and lots of questions.

Thanks again. See you at the Refuge!

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