

Tualatin River NWR Volunteer Update - June 2010

Water in the wetlands is way down even though the rain keeps coming. Large bullfrogs are stealing the show in ponds and canals, the forest is full of lovely flowers, and the eagles have been out and about bringing "Oh Wows!" from visitors. As always, there's something new to see every day!

Special Thanks To: Mynde, Judy S., and Bob S. for helping inventory binoculars; Carolyn U., Karen L. and Mynde for helping finish the cloud windows; Naomi, Larry, Trudi, Judy, Gary, Dave, Michele, Annabel, Jane, and Miriam for helping with field trips; and to all the rovers who have been turning in your reports.

June Refuge Events

June 3: Store Committee Meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

June 3: Tualatin River Photo Society Meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

June 9: Interpretive Techniques Training, 9:00am-12:00pm

June 10: FOR Board meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

June 12: Family Adventure Day, 8:30am-10:30am

June 18 and 19: Wake Up to Wildlife Walk, 7am-9am

June 18 and 19: Night Walk, 8:30pm-10:30pm

June 19: Plant Walk, 8:30am-10:30am

June 26: Guided Walk, 8:30am-10:30am

Interpretive Technique Training

The Refuge is ready to spread the word about wildlife and we need your help! Join Sarah and Stacie for a training session on methods we can use to deliver a meaningful message to our visitors. How can we get an idea across to our guests effectively and with a lasting impact? How can we connect someone with the Refuge in a 3 minute conversation? Come learn some tips and tricks to help make your interactions with the public more focused and fun! *Please RSVP with Stacie!* stacie_powell@fws.gov or 503.625.5944 ext 239

Where: Wildlife Center Classroom

When: Wednesday, June 9th, 9am-12pm

What to Bring: Something to write with, your favorite refuge-related topics in mind, questions and smiles!

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

Where: Meet in front of the Wildlife Center

When: 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.

Family Adventure Days

Volunteer Naturalists will be leading short drop-in activities along the year-round trail on June 12, July 10, August, 14, and September 11 from 8:30am-10:30am. Activities include Pond Study, Story Time, Wetland Art, and Food Web Discovery. Nature enthusiasts of all ages are encouraged come join the fun. This partnership program with Sherwood's YMCA is free and

open to the public. No registration is required. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Stacie at 503.625.5944 or Stacie_powell@fws.gov.

Wake-Up to Wildlife

Have you ever wondered which wildlife wanders the Refuge in the wee hours of the morning? Do Great Blue Herons yawn and stretch? What time do deer really wake-up? Here is a fun chance to start your day with the birds and mammals of the wetlands and learn about the morning rituals of local wildlife. Join us for a guided nature walk and see if the early bird really does catch the worm. To register, contact Stacie at 503.625.5944 x239 or Stacie_Powell@fws.gov.

Who: early risers, their families and friends

When: June 18th 7am-9am
June 19th 7am-9am

Where: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Wildlife Center

Guided Nature Walks

Join a knowledgeable Volunteer Naturalist on a guided trail walk every third Saturday, all summer long. Experience the Refuge through the sights, sounds and smells we often overlook on our own. Come enjoy a beautiful walk through the oak savannah, the wetlands, the riparian forest and more!

Who: these events are free and open to all nature enthusiasts. Registration is required.

When: June 23rd 8:30-10:30am
July 24th 8:30-10:30am
August 28th 8:30-10:30am

Where: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Wildlife Center

Welcome to Toby Sytsma

Toby is the newest member of the refuge family. He will become an increasingly familiar face on the Refuge through the summer months when he begins working full time in two weeks. (Right now, he is finishing his junior year at PSU and we're all wishing him luck with finals!) Toby's main projects will be the refuge's safety program and pursuing the initial stages of a fee program. He'll also be helping with day-to-day operations in the Wildlife Center. Make sure to stop by and introduce yourself!

Songbird Festival a Smashing Success

The 2010 Songbird Festival was a huge success. Many thanks to all of you who helped with preparation, outreach, activities and logistics on festival day, and clean-up. We had over 700 visitors and lots of great reviews. If any of you have suggestions for next year, please let us know!

Bluebird Box Update

We have babies! So far there are 18 babies recorded in the refuge's nest boxes. Several of these clutches are big enough to be banded, but not yet big enough to leave the nest. Generally, there are between 3 and 4 clutches per active box each summer so stay tuned for additional updates.

Sherwood Foundation for the Arts needs your help!

The refuge is working with the Sherwood Foundation for the Arts to host two weeks of "Visual Art Camp" at the Refuge this summer. They are looking for a few extra hands on Tuesday

June 15, 2010 at 8:30am until about 11 or so to help with materials prep. Priming the canvases with gesso is the big project for this work party. There will likely be other peripheral projects as well. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Sarah at sarah_dunham@fws.gov or 503.625.5944.

Thanks again. See you at the Refuge!

Wildlife Center Coordinator, Sarah Dunham: sarah_dunham@fws.gov 503-625-5944

EE Coordinator, Jenna Mendenhall: jenna_mendenhall@fws.gov 503-625-5944

Volunteer Naturalist Coordinator, Stacie Powell: Stacie_powell@fws.gov 503-625-5944

Biological Volunteer Coordinator, Peter Hvidsten: Peter_Hvidsten@fws.gov 503-625-5944