

Tualatin River NWR Volunteer Update - March 2010

Special Thanks To: Diane G. for picking up litter along the trails; Doug R. for helping plan and install the Tigard Library Display; Gary and Naomi who helped with Puddle Stompers; Don M. for building some fabulous shelves in the brochure closet; Diane S. Gary F. Bill S. and Kim K. for helping with field trips; Tom S. for his fabulous bird presentation in the Feb. Teacher Workshop; Cathi M. and Carolyn U. for assembling workshop materials; Michele S. and Gary F. for helping with Naturalist Trainings.

March Refuge Events

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

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

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

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: March 20 from 9am-11am, 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.

The Refuge is on Exhibit

From March 1st - 30th the Refuge is showcasing our programs, lands and opportunities to Connect People with Nature at the Tigard Library. The four level, glass display case can be found in the hallway to the right of the main entrance. A special thanks to Doug Robberson for connecting us with this great outreach option and helping to make it happen. Make sure to take a few minutes and check it out along with all your nature books this month! If you have any ideas for future displays at the library or elsewhere, let us know.

Spring Break Exploration Days

During Spring Break, the EE program is offering simple family friendly activities for visitors in the classroom in the Wildlife Center. Activities will be available on Tuesday March 23 through Friday March 6, from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Some of the activities include pelts and tracks, pond water investigation, . We already have all the volunteer help, but please come by and bring your families!

Twilight Sit

Celebrate the Vernal Equinox with a twilight sit on the Refuge! Twilight is a great time to sharpen your awareness skills because it is a transition time of day when some animals become quiet and different animals become active. Volunteers are invited to come observe the changes that happen on the Refuge as the sun sets. Please RSVP to Stacie:

Stacie_Powell@fws.gov or 503.625.5944 x239.

When: March 21 from 6:30-8:30pm

Where: Meet in the EE classroom

What to Bring: Something to sit on, something to write with, something to write on, dress for the weather. We will be outside rain or shine so please bring enough clothes to keep you warm and dry.

Volunteer Monitor Training

Calling all shore bird and marsh bird enthusiasts! Would you like to experience the Refuge in a new way while expanding your expertise in shore bird identification? Have you ever tried to identify secretive marsh birds by their calls? Volunteers are needed to provide valuable scientific data to the Refuge staff. If you are interested, join us for a volunteer training session to learn how to conduct spring bird surveys. Please RSVP to Peter at

peter_hvidsten@fws.gov or (503) 625-5944 x238

When: March 24, from 1 to 4 pm.

Where: Classroom session in the Riparian Room followed by outdoor practice.

What to bring: binoculars, note taking material, excitement, sharp eyes and ears.

Interested in picking up trash along the driveway?

There is an orange vest and some trash grabbers in the stock room in Nature's Overlook and trash bags in the janitor's closet. Anyone can use these items to pick up trash anytime.

Thanks again. See you at the Refuge!

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

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