

Tualatin River NWR Volunteer Update - May 2010

The water level in the wetlands is going down as we start to transition into summer. As we say goodbye to the water we say hello to some new seasonal visitors. Human visitors have spotted lots of shorebirds including least sandpipers, dowichers, and dunlins in the wetlands. There are at least three broods of goslings learning to swim in the small pools that are still left, and a green heron was recently spotted on the seasonal trail.

Special Thanks To: Gary and Larry for helping with a special DOI field trip; Gary, and Berk for helping with a special visit from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Kim for helping at a teacher workshop and assorted EE projects; Larry, Dave, and Gary for helping make Wetzel Woods Alternative Outdoor School a huge success; Gary, Annabel, Michele, Jane, Gary, Bill, Larry, Kim, Naomi, Leah, Trudi, and Deb for helping with field trips; Sue S. for clipping more great articles; Mynde and Karen for helping assemble cloud windows and teacher workshop outreach; Dorothy and Aida for helping with binoculars; and to all the rovers who have been turning in your reports.

May Refuge Events

May 6: Tualatin River Photo Society Meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

May 13: FOR Board meeting - <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/>

May 15: Songbird Festival!

May 22: Plant Walk 9:00am-11:00am

May 27: Weed Workshop 6:30pm

May 31: Memorial Day – Refuge Administrative office closed

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: 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.

Volunteer Help Needed for table at Festival of the Birds

Sarah is still looking for help at the Refuge's table at the Festival of the Birds at Oaks Bottom on Saturday May 8, 2010 8:00am-3:30pm. Our table includes an activity (Wetland Bingo), information about the Refuge, and some fun giveaways. The commitment will include helping set-up, run the table, and tear down. There will also be some time to look around the festival to see what's there. If you're interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Sarah at 503.625.5944 or sarah_dunham@fws.gov.

Songbird Festival Volunteers needed

Thanks to those of you who have already volunteered to help out. We still need help in the following places:

- Home Depot Shuttle Monitors - 2 people 8:00am-10:00am; 12:00pm-2:30pm)
- Photographer **Must have camera and experience with photographing
- Photographer's Helper:
- Stage/sound system **Must be familiar with A/V equipment

- Set-up of tables, chairs, signs, tents, etc. 7:00am-10:00am
- Take-down and clean-up – anyone who is willing to stay. Many hands make light work. 2:30 until we're finished.

Unless otherwise noted, no special experience is required and the volunteer shift runs from 9:30am-2:30pm. If any of you are able to help out, contact Bonnie Anderson at bonnieandmarty@comcast.net. **Please** be sure to write "SONGBIRD" in the subject line.

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 27th at 6:30 pm in the Riparian Room.

Rain Garden Workshop

Join us on May 8, 2010 from 11:00am-2:00pm to learn about how you can create your own rain garden at home to help keep our streams clean and healthy. Presented by Raindrops to Refuge and the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, this workshop promises to inspire you to make a difference in your natural community. The workshop is free, but space is limited and advanced registration is required. Register at www.emswcd.org. Call 503-935-5383 for more information.

President Obama Launches National Dialogue on Conservation

Following the April 16 White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors, hosted by Council on Environment Quality and the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, Americans are being encouraged to join a national dialogue about conservation. Two places where they can make their voices heard are <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/>, where the White House is taking recommendations, and <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/Feedback.cfm>, where people can share stories and photos about the public lands they love. This is a great opportunity for Friends, sports enthusiasts, birders, photographers, conservationists and others to express their opinions. Please spread the word in your refuge's local community.

Bluebird Box Update

A crew of volunteers has been monitoring the eight bluebird boxes on the Refuge. So far there are nests in six of the boxes, a total of 16 eggs. One female has started incubating. Incubation takes between 12 and 14 days so we may have babies soon!

Thanks again. See you at the Refuge!

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