



## Winter 2007

### Mission of FOR

*Friends of the Refuge is a community-based volunteer organization supporting Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.*

*We are dedicated to protection and restoration of the Refuge for the benefit of fish and wildlife, and for public education and recreation.*

### The Board

Norman Penner, President  
Paul Jaussi, Vice President  
Carolyn Uyemura, Secretary  
Peter Hainley, Treasurer  
Cheryl Hart  
Rick Ross  
Barbara Shields  
Karyn Smith  
Dick Winn  
non-voting: Virginia Parks

## Upcoming FOR Events at a Glance:

- Feb. 8:** FOR Board Meeting
- Feb. 22:** Songbird Festival Planning Meeting
- Mar. 20:** Volunteer Naturalist Training
- Mar. 31:** Volunteer Trail Rover Training
- May 12:** 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Songbird Festival

and don't forget, all members are welcome and encouraged to attend the FOR monthly meeting!

**Second Thursday of every month**  
Monthly FOR Meeting - Public welcome!

7pm at Refuge Headquarters  
16507 SW Roy Rogers Road, Sherwood  
VM 503-972-7714  
[www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)

# Making Tracks

Newsletter of the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

## The View From Nature's Overlook

*Nature Sales Outlet Gets a Name*

by Cheryl Hart

No longer need we refer to it as the "nature store," "the sales outlet," or something equally generic. Late in 2006, the committee responsible for planning "the store" in the soon-to-be-completed wildlife center sponsored a contest to name it. The winning entry, "Nature's Overlook," was submitted by Linda Clark of King City. It was chosen by the committee from over 60 diverse and imaginative entries. Linda's suggestion was felt to be especially appropriate because the store will be situated looking out over the refuge wetlands. Cheryl Hart, chair of the sales outlet committee, awarded Linda her prize—a t-shirt, hat and pin. Thanks to all who participated in the contest!

Now that the sales outlet has a name, the committee continues to work diligently on developing a business and marketing plan to guide the development of the store. If anyone would like to join the committee, meetings are held monthly at 12:00 noon at Refuge Headquarters on the Tuesday before the regular FOR



*Name-the-store contest winner Linda Clark receives her prize from Committee Chair Cheryl Hart.*

Board Meeting (which is the second Thursday). We are especially in need of people who have business development or marketing experience.

Nature's Overlook will open in the wildlife center in the fall. If you are interested in volunteering to work at the store, you can add your name to the list by contacting Carolyn Penner by e-mail at [carolynpenner@comcast.net](mailto:carolynpenner@comcast.net) or by calling her at 503-579-5822.

*Cheryl Hart is a newly elected board member and Chair of the Sales Outlet Committee.*

## Songbird Festival Planning Meeting

We'll have one more Songbird Festival this Spring on the Headquarters Unit while the Wildlife Center is still under construction. Please come and help us plan another fun and educational event! New volunteers are invited and encouraged to come and get involved!

**When/Where:** February 22, 2007, 6-8pm at Refuge



## News From the Knoll

### Construction Update

by Kim Strassburg

If you've visited the Refuge lately, or even driven past on 99W, you may have noticed that construction of the new Wildlife Center and Administrative Building has seen significant progress. Both buildings are almost all enclosed, with just a few windows and some roofing to go. The interiors are really beginning to take shape, with drywall in place, painting started, and utilities and wiring almost complete. Flooring and trim will come next, and then comes the installation of cabinetry, fixtures, and appliances. Towards the middle of summer, the interpretive exhibits will be installed and the finishing touches will be added. Outside, you will soon start to see the plaza take shape, complete with pervious pavers, lighting, and a

flagpole. Once the weather dries out, the exterior of the buildings will be stained a natural earth tone. Many people have asked about the curious structure in the far northeast corner of the main parking lot. It's a holding tank for non-potable water and would be used for fire suppression in an emergency, and it too is almost complete. Lastly, at the entrance to the parking lot, a small fee booth will be constructed in support of the refuge's future entrance fee program.

Of course, there are endless details yet to be worked out, but progress is encouraging. The refuge staff anticipates moving into the new offices sometime in mid-summer and expects the dedication of the new Wildlife Center to take place later in the year. As the construction progresses, the dates for this celebration will be firmed up and, at the same time, we will be gearing up to staff the center with Friends and volunteers.

### Twelfth Annual Songbird Festival Saturday, May 12, 2007, 10:00am-2:00pm

It's almost that time again! Migratory songbirds will be arriving soon, and we'll celebrate during the annual Migratory Songbird Festival at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood. Activities will include bird walks, nature talks, hands-on educational activities for visitors of all ages, food, a live raptor presentation by the Oregon Zoo, canoe paddles and interactive exhibits. For more information, go to [www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/](http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/) or call 503-590-5811. Most activities will be held at 16507 SW Roy Rogers Rd, Sherwood (Headquarters Unit). Many activities are wheelchair accessible with assistance.

## Jumping in with Both Feet

### *New Board Members Bring Diverse Skills and Experience*

Along with the New Year, the FOR Board welcomed four new members: **Peter Hainley, Cheryl Hart, Becky Long, and Paul Jaussi**. These four brave and intrepid individuals have jumped into the organization with both feet! Paul has already spearheaded the development of a new web page as well as a membership and volunteer management system that brings FOR into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Cheryl has been serving as the Chair of the Sales Outlet Committee and nurturing this fledgling group as it works to develop a business plan. Becky has taken charge of the Program Committee, seeking out new ways to educate and entertain the membership. Peter, with his extensive background in non-profit management, has agreed to take over the office of Treasurer on the board, a sometimes thankless but critical

## NWRA and the Refuge Action Network

The National Wildlife Refuge Association's web page, [www.refugenet.org](http://www.refugenet.org), is a great resource for anyone who is interested in and concerned about the future of America's National Wildlife Refuges. There you can sign up for the Refuge Action Network, which has made it easy for you to contact your elected officials and government decision makers regarding issues of concern for Refuges. Recent action alerts have included urging Congress members to join the bipartisan Refuge Caucus, to permanently protect the Arctic NWR, to support coral reefs in the refuge system, and to increase funding for refuges.

As the web site points out: "By communicating with members of Congress to explain how federal government policies impact the National Wildlife Refuge System, you become a vital link between Washington, DC, and your local refuge."

## Wish List

**Digital Projector:** The Outreach Committee is in need of a digital projector for its outreach activities. Either a donation of a used one or funds to purchase one would be appreciated. Call Norman Penner at 503-579-5822 if you can help meet this need.

**Sales Experience and Leads on Cash Register and Software:** Though the sales outlet committee is still researching our needs and options, we would welcome any advice or leads regarding a reasonably priced register and software program to track inventory and manage sales. The committee is also looking for new members with experience in retail, marketing, and business in general. Please contact Cheryl Hart at [oregonchart@comcast.net](mailto:oregonchart@comcast.net) or call Carolyn Penner at 503-579-5822 if you can help us stay on the right track!

## Friendly Faces on the Refuge

*Volunteer Profile: Chris Casebeer - Trail Rover*

Our volunteers give many hours to the refuge, whether it's greeting visitors on the trails, accompanying school field trips, planting trees, or sweeping . . . yes, sweeping.



Our river and wetland overlooks welcome visitors to the refuge with great views, song birds, and wonderful animal tracks to explore. What most people don't know is that volunteer Chris Casebeer sweeps the two viewing platforms clean so everyone can enjoy those great tracks embedded in the



concrete. After noticing that falling oak and fir tree debris often obscured the tracks, Chris took the initiative to assign herself the task. With her "overlook" broom she volunteers quite a few hours

sweeping, all the while greeting visitors as one of the refuge's rovers.

Chris is an Oregon native who is excited to have the refuge so close to her Sherwood neighborhood. The refuge offers her a chance to spend time outdoors close to home, help out Mother Nature and her creatures, and enjoy the amazing bird watching. The refuge also gives Chris a chance to do something nice for and give back to the environment.

Thank you, Chris, for all your hard work making the refuge a great place to visit!

## Wanted: Shop & Maintenance Helpers

*Volunteer Opportunity*

The refuge is in need of assistance with its maintenance program in the shop and out in the field. A state-of-the-art maintenance building was recently constructed on the Tualatin River Unit (aka Headquarters or Dennis parcel), and the refuge staff is looking for a volunteer to assist the maintenance worker in organizing and upkeep of the new facility. Duties can range from keeping the facility and tools organized and clean to doing preventive maintenance (oil/filter changes) on vehicles and equipment.

They are also looking for skilled individuals who can provide a level of commitment to operating small and heavy equipment in the field. Work levels can be matched to the individuals' experience and availability. Duties can range from pressure washing heavy equipment to removing non-native and invasive weeds to operating farm tractors.

If you're interested or would like further information, please contact Deputy Refuge Manager Chris Lapp at 503-590-5811.

### Support FOR when you Search the Web with Goodsearch!

You can help the Friends of the Refuge each time you search the web. If you use Goodsearch to search the web, about one cent will be contributed to the charity of your choice for each search. Goodsearch uses the Yahoo search engine and the funding comes from web advertisers.

To use this system go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). The page has a field asking 'Who do you search for?'. Enter 'tualatin' and then click the 'verify' button. A list will appear showing organizations with 'tualatin' in their names. Click on 'Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge', then enter your search in the appropriate field and you are in business! On subsequent searches, the Friends of Tualatin River NWR is automatically entered in the organization field so you can go directly to the search words. If you save the Goodsearch page as a 'favorite' site, then it just takes a couple clicks until you are ready to search.

## Founding Members are Now Lifetime Members

*Member Profile: Spence Krueger and Mary LeFevre*

As some of FOR's earliest members, Spence and Mary have been contributing their time, talents, and treasures for well over a decade. If you've ever been to a Saturday Work Party, chances are you've sampled Mary's fantastic baked goods or engaged in friendly conversation with Spence as you mulch rows of seedlings. Unfortunately, we are losing them to the wilds of Central Oregon, where they've recently completed building a home.

But in recognition of their dedication and contributions to the refuge over the years, the Friends of the Refuge have made Spence and Mary Lifetime Members of FOR.

Good luck, you two, we'll miss you! Thank you for the legacy you leave!



# Notes from the President

by Norman Penner

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends took place at the Sherwood Senior Center November 4, 2006, with a significant number of members in attendance. Over brunch, members were serenaded by Annie Seder and Katie Dobscha, members of the Metro Youth Symphony. Guest speaker Rex Burkholder, District 5 Metro Councilor, highlighted the importance of the Refuge in Metro Regional government's plans to retain regional green spaces.

The major purpose of this Membership meeting is to allow members the opportunity to elect the Board of Directors and to approve proposed amendments to our Bylaws. Copies of the proposed amendments had been mailed to the membership previously. No revisions were offered from the members present, so the amendments were approved by a unanimous vote.

Peter, Cheryl and Becky were new candidates for the board, while Paul had been appointed earlier to fill a vacancy, and our Bylaws require that he

stand for election at the next annual membership meeting (see *Jumping In*). Virginia, Barbara, Norman and Rick were candidates for reelection. There were no

The following names were submitted to the members as candidates for the Board of Directors:

Peter Hainley  
Cheryl Hart  
Paul Jaussi  
Becky Long  
Virginia Parks  
Norman Penner  
Barbara Shields  
Rick Ross

nominations from the floor, and the slate was unanimously elected.

Dick Winn, Carolyn Uyemura and Karyn Smith completed the first year of their two-year terms. They, along with

the eight elected, now constitute the 11-member board.

The officers for 2007 were selected by the Board at its December meeting. I will continue as President while Paul Jaussi will serve as Vice President, Carolyn Uyemura as Secretary and Peter Hainley as Treasurer. Bob Swanson left the board after serving six years in various positions. He will continue to chair the Restoration Committee and the Land Acquisition Committee, so look for his e-mails regarding refuge work parties and restoration opportunities! (If you aren't on his list, you can contact him at: [swanson.b@comcast.net](mailto:swanson.b@comcast.net).) Thanks for all your hard work, Bob!

The Friends membership has now grown to 378, thanks in large part to all those who came to the Grand Opening and signed up for the free one-year membership. Our hope is that all of you will continue as dues-paying members at the end of your free year. Thanks to all of you long-time members for renewing your memberships.

Spencer Krueger and Mary Lefevre, two of our Founding Members, recently donated \$1,000 for the purchase of hand tools for the monthly restoration projects (See *Member Profile*). Thanks, Spence and Mary. Volunteers will find it a lot easier pruning and digging with new and sharp tools on future monthly workdays.

The Friends have also received a \$1,000 donation from The Light Edge, Inc. (see *News of Note*). The staff are all amateur birders and very happy to see the refuge

finally open to the public. We appreciate their generous support!

We already know that 2007 will be another exciting year for the refuge. The wildlife center is under construction and is projected to be completed by summer. It will feature a sales area (Nature's Overlook) staffed and operated by the Friends. After a few weeks of moving and staff getting settled in, there will be a formal public opening. A Friends committee is already busy planning for the store. Once open, there will be great opportunities for Friends to volunteer as sales staff.

We will be planning the opening celebration as well as the Annual Migratory Songbird Festival (May 12). Many of you indicated a willingness to help with the Songbird Celebration, so someone will be contacting you as we develop our plans and needs (see *Planning Meeting*).

Our web site, [www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org), has undergone a facelift and offers an excellent source of information on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Check it out!

*Norman Penner is President of the FOR Board of Directors*

## Denison Family Foundation

### *A Special Group Plants the Seed for Nature's Overlook*

This charitable organization with deep local roots (including our own longtime FOR member Carol Santesson) has made a special donation of \$30,000 which has been earmarked as seed money to start up Nature's Overlook. The funds will be used to purchase infrastructure (such as a cash register), inventory, and the numerous financial details a new business faces.

**Thank you, Denison Family Foundation!**

## What's Wild at the Refuge?



Ed Bustya photo

### Winter Species Highlights

Over the winter, the refuge has been active with a variety of bird life, and there's much more to look forward to as the season changes. Of course our regular winter populations of waterfowl, mostly cackling Canada geese, northern pintails and mallards, are abundant. Some uncommon waterfowl sightings have included canvasbacks, redheads, and Eurasian wigeons. Late in November, we peaked at just over 17,000 waterfowl. In early January, the cold weather snap froze over most of our wetland cells except for the one behind the headquarters building. Waterfowl concentrated in the remaining open water, and the peregrine falcons and bald eagles followed.

A northern shrike was observed on the Atfalat'i Unit in late December, and western bluebirds have been frequenting the refuge as well. Now is the time to start looking for additional early spring migrants such as robins and yellow-rumped warblers, not to mention the pairing up of ducks and geese in mid to late February. Resident great horned owls and western screech owls should be nesting right now and owlets should hatch in early spring.

You have an opportunity to help the refuge by sharing your wildlife observations with us. Have you seen something uncommon or rare? Be sure to share your wildlife sightings with [kim\\_strassburg@fws.gov](mailto:kim_strassburg@fws.gov), 503-590-5811.

## News of Note

### The Light Edge Donation

**The Light Edge Inc.**, a Tualatin-based energy efficient lighting design and manufacturing company, contributed \$1,000 to FOR this fall. Sporting a line of products with names like Raptor, Eagle, Harrier, and Merlin, one might catch a hint that the company's employees have an affinity for wildlife. Sure enough, their website, [www.thelightedge.com](http://www.thelightedge.com), reveals the roots of the company's conservation philosophy:

"Besides being amateur birders, we have a great respect for the importance of all members of the food chain in nature, predators and prey alike. Predators in particular act as important indicators of the state of our environment, maintaining the stability of healthy populations among prey species. They suffer dramatically when their food source is reduced by habitat reduction, rampant use of pesticides, and other impactful human practices."

We want to thank The Light Edge for its generous contribution and welcome the company to our conservation community!

## Trail Etiquette and the Rewards of Roving

We are happy to report that since the refuge opened last June, over 15,000 people have visited! While this is a real accomplishment for the refuge, the Friends, and the community, it also presents some challenges. As people become familiar with the refuge, most recognize that it truly is a place for "Wildlife First." Unfortunately, not everyone grasps the importance of abiding by the refuge regulations that are designed to protect and minimize disturbance for wildlife. As a Friend of the Refuge, you can set a great example for other visitors by practicing trail etiquette. These guidelines are clearly posted throughout the refuge:

- Trails are for walking only. To minimize disturbance to wildlife, no bicycling, jogging, or running.
- Pets are not allowed on the refuge. They disturb wildlife and will scare animals away even before you get a chance to see them.
- From October 1st through April 30th, the seasonal trails (service roads) are closed to all public entry to provide sanctuary for wildlife. During this time, all visitors are limited to the year-round trail only. Please stay on the designated trail.
- From May 1st through September 30th, visitors are permitted to walk on 3 miles of service roads.
- Groups larger than 10 people require a reservation. Use of the photography blind also requires a reservation.

Another way you can help is to become a trail rover volunteer. Come to the next **Trail Rover Volunteer Training** on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00am-noon. Trail roving is a fun and rewarding opportunity to meet and greet our visitors, share your enthusiasm and knowledge of the refuge and its wildlife, and spend quality time outdoors. Want to know more? Contact Janice Jenkins at 503-590- 5811 or [janice\\_jenkins@fws.gov](mailto:janice_jenkins@fws.gov). For a complete



**Friends of the Refuge**

P.O. Box 1306

Sherwood, OR 97140

## Upcoming Events

### 12th Annual Songbird Festival

May 12, 2007, 10am-2pm

Headquarters Unit, details inside

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## Volunteer Naturalist Training

Would you like to become a Volunteer Naturalist and share your knowledge and enthusiasm for the natural environment with visiting students? Do you have experience working with children? Join us to learn how to be a part of our environmental education field trip program. Volunteer Naturalists greet and accompany student field trips and help facilitate student learning. Go to [www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/volunteer](http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/volunteer) for a complete volunteer naturalist description.

Contact [janice\\_jenkins@fws.gov](mailto:janice_jenkins@fws.gov) to sign up or to learn more.

### Join the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

New Membership  Renewal  Gift Membership from: \_\_\_\_\_  
for:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (e-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

Does your employer match donations?  No  Yes

### Annual Membership Categories

**Paid by**  Cash  Check

Senior / Student \$15

Sustaining \$100

Individual / Family \$25

Patron \$250

Supporting \$50

Benefactor \$500+

Please make check payable to Friends of the Refuge and send to PO Box 1306, Sherwood, OR 97140

### Volunteer with FOR

I am willing to volunteer and would enjoy being/doing:

Work parties

Office / administrative

Board member

Special event coordinator / team member

Nature/bird walk leader

Newsletter (editor, columnist), web page design / maintenance

Presentations to school groups and/or civic organizations

Other (please describe):

[www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)